Hafa Adai!

COVID-19 update: 10 new cases; 0 hospitalizations. PAGE 3

Atkins Kroll donates $55,000 to Pacific Mini Games. PAGE 5

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 100

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Brother tells impassioned tale of how Torres risked his life during Yutu, pandemic

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vincent DLG Torres came to the defense of his younger brother, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, during the public comments portion of the Senate's special session Wednesday, shortly before senators voted, 4-3, to acquit the governor of all charges in the House of Representatives' Articles of Impeachment.

Vincent Torres said the senators heard and received testimonies and evidence during the impeachment trial, all in support against the Articles of Impeachment.

He noted that the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee did not submit any single evidence to support their impeachment. "That itself warrants a vote of no to all of the articles," he pointed out.

He particularly cited section 5 of the Articles of Impeachment, where the JGO claims that the governor neglected his duties during Super Typhoon Yutu and COVID-19 crisis.

See BROTHER on Page 4

SMA adds to Rota-Guam flights

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Starting June 1, Star Marianas Air Inc. will be adding an additional flight to its twice weekly flight schedule from Rota to Guam.

According to Star Marianas president Shaun Christian, the airline will be flying from Rota to Guam and back every Wednesday on top of its weekly Monday and Friday flights. That would mean three SMA flights to and from Guam every week starting June 1.

"We just operated our first scheduled passenger flight between Rota and Guam last Monday since operations were suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions," he said.

Beginning in June, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Star Marianas will be flying from Saipan to Rota at 11am to 11:30am, then from Rota to Guam from 12pm to 12:30pm. The airline will then fly back from Guam at 1pm to 1:30pm and the last flight from Rota to Saipan will be from 2pm to 2:30pm.

Christian said the resumption of flights from Rota to Guam would not have been possible with the collaborative effort of Rota legislators Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), who are temporarily subsidizing the cost of flying to Rota a Customs and Border Protection officer who would process Guam-bound passengers.

See SMA on Page 4

Another 15-cent fuel price hike

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI saw yet another increase in fuel prices yesterday, just two weeks since the last, with Mobil Oil Marianas leading the way with a 15-cent increase.

Around 3pm yesterday, Mobil Oil Marianas raised its fuel prices; Shell Marianas is expected to follow suit this morning.

Mobil now charges $6.26 for a gallon of its Extra fuel, from $6.11. Its Supreme fuel was hiked from $6.56 per gallon to $6.71 while diesel is now $6.88 from $6.98.

For the past few week,

See HIKE on Page 4

Sablan: 'Trial' was a train wreck'

» 'Torres acquittal was no surprise'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) described yesterday the Senate impeachment trial of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as a "train wreck" and an "utter travesty of justice" in the wake of Torres' acquittal of the charges outlined in the Articles of Impeachment.

Sablan

She said the trial's end was no surprise. "It ended exactly as expected," said Sablan in a social media post she shared with *Saipan Tribune*. ***(See Page 11).***

See SABLAN on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

SANDS OF TIME CEREMONY NMC

Northern Marianas College's School of Business recognized on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, their students who will be graduating today, May, 20, 2022 with their Bachelor of Science in Business Management. The event, which is known as the "Sands of Time Ceremony" was held at Saipan World Resort. The BSBM students, together with students from other degree programs, will be graduating today at NMC's 41st Commencement Exercise at the Koblerville Gymnasium at 4pm. The ceremony will also be live-streamed on NMC's Facebook page. In the photo with the graduates are NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, NMC Board of Regents chairperson Charles Cepeda, NMC regents Irene Torres and Michelle Sablan, NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, NMC dean of Student Support Services Charlotte Cepeda, NMC dean of Academic Programs and Services Vilma Reyes, and NMC School of Business interim director Dr. Bobbie Hunter.

INSIDE

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North Korea's COVID pandemic caseload nears 2 million, a week after acknowledging the outbreak.
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Tom Cruise mania descended in C annes where the actor made a whirlwind appearance.
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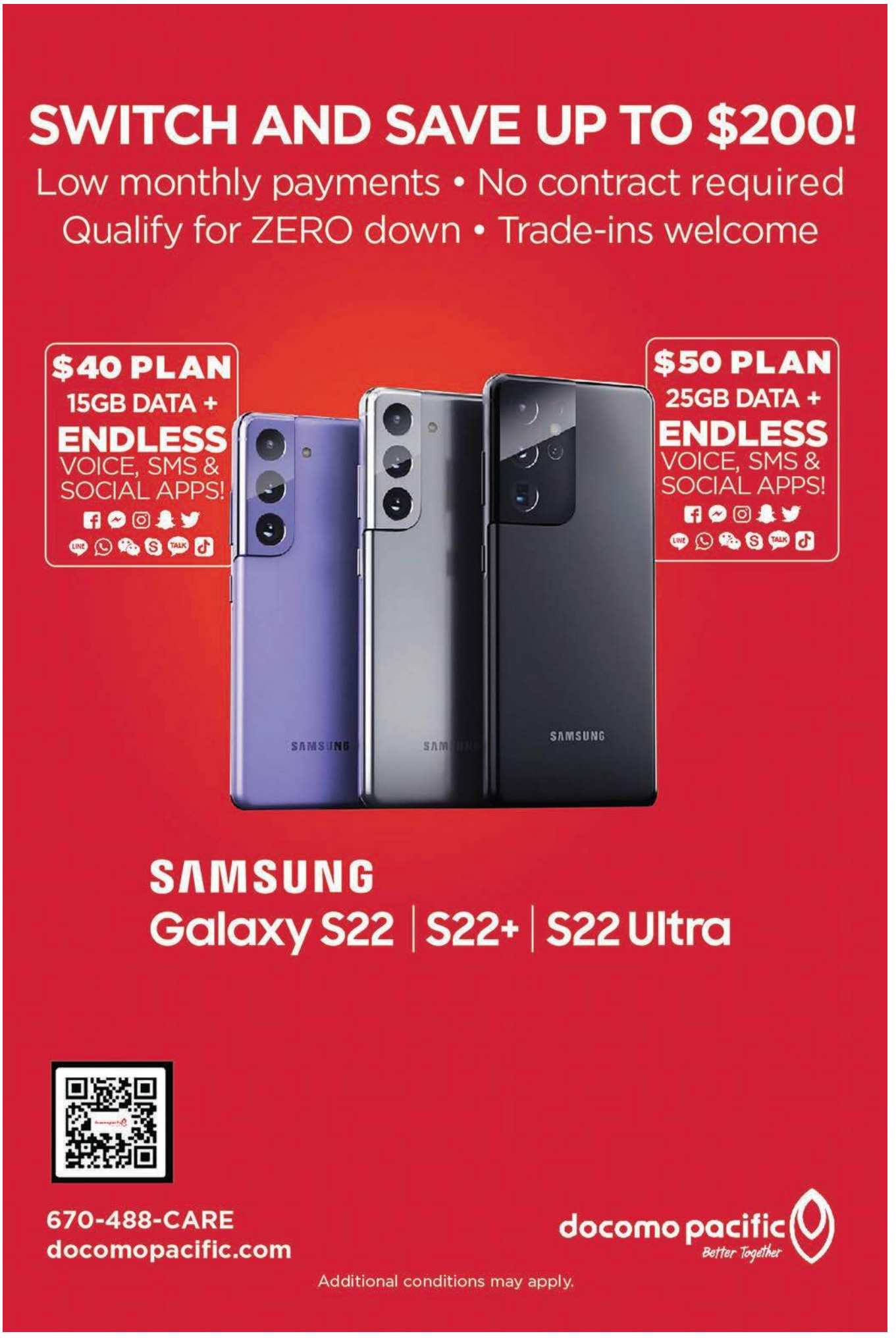
SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



Susupe bakery reopens

A bakery in Susupe that had been temporarily closed for failing to meet sanitation standards has recently reopened, according to the latest report of the Environmental Health Disease Prevention of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Marg's Bakery and Kitchen, which was closed down last Jan. 22, 2022, finally resumed business on April 14, 2022, after a three-month hiatus.

This was learned in the latest report of the Environmental Health Disease Prevention based on the results of its sanitation inspections on certain stores and restaurants in April.

The classifications for Food Safety Rating for an establishment are:

- 0-10 demerits: Grade A
- 11-20 demerits: Grade B
- 21-30 demerits: Grade C
- 30 demerits or more: Closure or suspension

GRADE A

1. Subway Restaurant, Chalan Piao 2. New Public Market, Susupe 3. Latte Built, San Jose 4. Latte Built, Kagman 5. T Market, Garapan 6.MobilKagmanMart,Kagman 7. Sunshine Market, Garapan 8. Green Consume II Retail, Chalan Laulau 9. Thunder Chicken Restaurant, Chalan Laulau 10. Diamond Water Retail, Capitol Hill 11. Rendezvous Restaurant, Chalan Laulau 12. AA Sadog Tasi Mobil Station, Sadog Tasi 13. Club 88, Garapan 14. Chalan Piao Mobil Station, Chalan Piao 15. Friendly Market, San Jose 16. JL Market, Susupe 17. Kim's Tofu Factory, San Jose 18. 9 Eleven Resto Bar, San Jose 19. Shirley's Catering, Koblerville 20. Shell Dandan Retail, Dandan 21. Shell Puerto Rico Retail, Puerto Rico 22. Shell Susupe Retail, Susupe 23. Shell San Roque Retail, San Roque 24. Tribes Bar and Grill, Garapan 25. Jin Li Store, Dandan 26. Joeten Dandan Supermarket, Dandan 27. Coco Restaurant, Garapan 28. Joeten Kagman, Kagman - Retail - Snack Bar

Tinian:

1. K Town Coffee Shop 2. Triple J Wholesale 3. Oriental Restaurant

GRADE B:

1. New Shao Noodle House, Garapan 2. Tas Yuan KTV Bar, Garapan

No establishment obtained a Grade "C" rating.

For more information, contact the EHDP office at (670) 664-4870/72/73, or email the director of EHDP, John Tagabuel, at john.tagabuel@chcc.health.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @cnmi-chcc; visit https://www.chcc.health; or call (670) 234-8950. ***(Chrystal Marino)***

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COVID-19 UPDATE
10 new cases; 0 hospitalizations

The CNMI has gained 10 additional COVID-19 cases last week, which brings the CNMI's total of confirmed positive cases to 11,315 individuals since March 28, 2020, according to the latest report of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The same report says that there are currently zero hospitalizations as of May 15, 2022.

Of the 10 new cases, CHCC said that five individuals were identified on May 9, 2022; two on May 10, 2022; another two on May 12, 2022; and one on May 15, 2022.

As of May 17, 2022, a total of 23,197 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots have been administered; of the eligible population, 62.2% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

So far, there have been a total of 11,276 COVID-19 recoveries, five active cases, and 34 COVID-19 related deaths in the CNMI as of May 16, 2022. A total of 10,389 positive COVID-19 results were identified through community testing and 926 cases were identified by travel testing. ***(Angel Li)***

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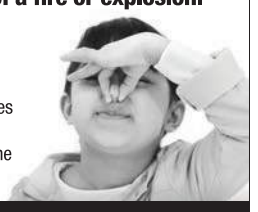

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OFFICIAL SEAL

Indigo Music Festival tonight expects 2,000-plus crowd

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Indigo Music Festival brought to the Marianas by Roil Soil Clothing is expected to be the largest Music Festival to hit the Marianas post-pandemic, with the event expected to garner over 2,000 participants at the Garapan Fishing Base.

According to Roil Soil Clothing owner Shayne Villanueva, the music festival set for tonight is expected to gather a crowd of over 2,000 people based on the tickets sold thus far. However, the number is expected to grow as tickets will still be available at the door.

The music festival, which is set for 5:30pm tonight to 11:30pm, will feature the Maui-based reggae band Maoli, as well as Guam's One Rhythm and Steppahs.

KIMBERLY ESMORES

The Marianas Visitors Authority held a press conference yesterday to introduce the performers in tonight's Indigo Music Festival.

"We're excited to have such a big event. It's been quite some time since COVID hit. We sold a bunch of tickets, and it seems like a lot of people are excited as well so we would just like to thank our sponsors: Marianas Visitors Authority, *Marianas Variety*, Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs, Budweiser, Roil Soil Marketing, COVID-19 Task Force, and IT&E," he said.

Villanueva said the CNMI should expect a great performance overall and is encouraging everyone to come early and to exercise safety and respect for the bands tonight.

"We're very excited to bring in a high class act and Saipan definitely deserves this," he said.

MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo thanks Roil Soil for putting the music festival together, as the CNMI has been yearning for another concert coming out of this pandemic.

"I want to thank Shayne from Roil Soil for bringing this great opportunity to the Marianas as we've longed for an exciting activity and what better activity than to have Maoli, Steppahs, and One Rhythm with us," she said.

NMC's 41st Commencement Exercise today

Northern Marianas College's 41st Commencement Exercise will be held today, May 20, 2022 at the Koblerville Gymnasium. The event will start at 4pm and will include the conferral of associate and bachelor degrees to the members of NMC's Class of 2022.

Family and friends who would like to view the ceremony online can log on to facebook.com/NMC. Proa. The live stream will start at 4pm ChST. ***(PR)***

SABLAN

From Page 1

The lawmaker said she firmly believes justice will prevail nevertheless, "perhaps through the courts or in November."

Sablan is the Democratic Party's candidate for governor in the coming Nov. 8 general election. Torres is seeking re-election under the Republican Party.

All was not lost, however, during Senate's special session Wednesday, she said. Sablan described the Senate minority bloc members as shining stars. Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), and Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) all voted "yes" for the impeachment of Torres on all charges.

The four senators who voted "no" to convict Torres are all Republicans—Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider, Victor B. Hocog, Francisco Q. Cruz, and Karl King-Nabors.

Sablan said it would have made no difference in the outcome even if the Senate leadership had allowed the team of House prosecutors appointed by Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and all 8,000 pages of evidence plus video-recorded testimony.

"There would have been at least some appearance of impartiality, so there's that. But the verdict would have still been a foregone conclusion," she said.

HIKE

From Page 1

CNMI fuel prices have seen a steady incline.

Prior to yesterday's increase, oil companies across Saipan raised prices by 15 cents on May 6. Last April 20, the CNMI saw a steep increase of 20 cents, with local oil companies increasing regular fuel prices to $5.96 for a gallon.

The CNMI saw its first fuel increase of the year back on Jan. 5, when local oil companies raised prices of regular fuel to $4.96, followed by a string of increases that reached an all-time-high of $6.06 per gallon of regular fuel in March. The CNMI then finally saw its first gas rollback in mid-March, with oil companies bringing regular fuel down to $5.86. The rollback was followed by yet another increase at the end of March with fuel going back up to $6.01.

According to a local motorist, she was so shocked to see fuel prices this high.

"I can't believe fuel is actually this expensive now. I wasn't sure if we reached an all-time-high before but I am sure now. This is ridiculous," she said.

A 43-year-old motorist said he was shocked to see how high fuel prices have gotten.

"I didn't notice the increase until I saw the price for a full tank of gas. I thought the cashier had made a mistake when my full tank went from roughly $60 to almost $80. I am in disbelief," he said.

SMA

From Page 1

"Our resumption of service would not have been possible without the assistance of Sen. Paul and Rep. Donald and without the cooperation of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and we are grateful for their support," he said.

In a separate statement from Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), he said that upon visiting the Star Marianas website earlier this week, only three of Star Marianas' 91 passenger seats from Rota to Guam were available until the end of June.

"I went into SMA's booking site and noticed that from now until the end of June, only three of the approximately 91 seats were left. This is a great sign that our traveling public are taking full advantage of this. Again, special thanks to SMA, CBP, and all those involved. This is just further proof and justification that a permanent CBP officer position is needed on Rota," he said.

Star Marianas officially resumed its flight service from Rota to Guam last week following the proposal made by the two Rota lawmakers to fund the transportation of a CBP officer from Saipan to Rota.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Star Marianas has wanted to resume flights from Rota to Guam for a while now but CBP's recent requirement to have all outbound passengers cleared from Rota to Guam has been a challenge for the airline to resume the route.

BROTHER

From Page 1

The lawyer said he remembers vividly after midnight during Super Typhoon Yutu when the governor called him that he had received a message that there's a family near his (Vincent) home that needed help.

Vincent Torres said the governor's information was that the roof of the family's house had been blown away, but they cannot send any help—not the police or firefighters or anybody else. He said he told his brother not to leave and instead pray.

Vincent Torres said his brother then hung up the phone. After a few minutes, he had a hunch and called the governor back but he did not answer. He called several times more, but the governor would not pick up his phone.

"I knew then that he had left to go to those families. I teared up, I prayed," he said.

After a couple of hours, Vincent Torres said, the governor called him and was so excited on the phone. "He said, 'Brod I found them. When I got to their house, the house was blown off. But I got them. Two small children, baby girls, a mother and a father. They're here in my home safe and sound,'" Vincent Torres said, quoting the governor.

Vincent Torres also recalled the moment when the first person died of COVID-19 on Saipan on April 30, 2020. He said everybody was scared, the whole world was scared, and thousands of people were dying across the world.

Vincent Torres said he called the governor the next day and told him to stay home as someone had just died and a lot more will be dying on the islands. The lawyer said he told the governor it is his duty and responsibility to protect his children, his family, and that he should not leave the house.

"He gave me a look that I've never seen before. And he said, 'Brod how can I tell husbands, wives, children to send their loved ones and fight COVID and protect our people while I sit in the comfort and safety of my home? I'm sorry, my brother, I cannot do that," he said.

Vincent Torres said he asked his brother to send Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios instead but he said the governor told him that he cannot do that as Palacios is older than him.

He said his brother had stated that if COVID gets to him and takes his life, he knows he died helping people.

After that day, while the COVID-19 pandemic raged, the governor continued going out every single day and helping, Vincent Torres said.

"And as you all know, from the first airplane that arrived on Saipan for COVID materials and medical equipment on April 13, 2020, my brother has been going up to the airport for every single airplane that arrived at 1, 2, 3, 4 in the morning," he said.

Not a single other elected official ever went up during those times, he said.

"Did you see him coming up ever in a newspaper attacking, criticizing anybody? No. Why? Because that is the kind of governor that he is. That's the governor that we have. That's the governor that you have," he said.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Vincent DLG Torres speaks about what his younger brother, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, did during Super Typhoon Yutu and COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of evidence to support the Impeachment of Articles during the public comments portion of the Senate's special session Wednesday.

If another pandemic, disaster, or life-threatening event ever hits the islands again, what kind of governor will people want to lead the CNMI, Vincent Torres asked.

"A governor that that sits in the comfort of his or her home? Or a governor that goes out and risks his life to help his people?" he asked, adding that he has every confidence that the senators would do the right thing and vote no to the Articles of Impeachment.

Fabian Indalecio, a known critic of Torres, also spoke, along with Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) during the public comments portion of the session.

AK

Atkins Kroll, led by Kevin Barnes, sales manager at Atkins Kroll Saipan, donates $55,000 to the 2022 Pacific Mini Games yesterday.

Atkins Kroll donates $55,000 to Pacific Mini Games

Atkins Kroll donated $55,000 to the 2022 Pacific Mini Games yesterday as part of their gold sponsorship. The amount is symbolic of the auto dealership's 55th year anniversary on Saipan. The games will be held on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota from June 17 to 25. This year, 20 countries and territories will participate in nine sports.

"AK Saipan joining as gold sponsors for the upcoming Pacific Mini Games means a lot to me both professionally and personally. My dad, Dr. Kurt Barnes, was instrumental in developing and hosting the first Micronesian Olympics in 1969, and spent his whole life teaching team sports in the region. In many ways, this really is an extension of his legacy, and I couldn't be more proud for AK to be a part of it," said Kevin Barnes, sales manager at Atkins Kroll Saipan.

"It is truly a privilege to be a part of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games legacy. We at AK are filled with immense pride to support such an event that brings together our brothers and sisters of Oceania in the spirit of sportsmanship," said Joel Lesh, vice president and general manager of Atkins Kroll Saipan.

Atkins Kroll is a proud community supporter and wishes the best of luck to all participating athletes. ***(PR)***

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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The Mobility Space is
Getting Greener
in the Northern Mariana Islands

The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through theimplementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

The Pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points.

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leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

It's a rarity when the valedictorian of any graduating class is not present, especially now with graduations and promotions being held in person, but this was the case for Hopwood Middle School 2022 promoting class valedictorian Mark Ryan Ortizo Costales, who is currently off island attending his sister's college graduation in the U.S. mainland.

Costales gave a pre-recorded valedictorian speech to his fellow 179 classmates while his award was presented to his father and his aunt. Costales was online on his aunt's phone and was shown his awards being received by his aunt and father.

The class salutatorian was Hayden Romeo Igisomar who also received the Commissioner of Education Award.

The Principal's Leadership Award was presented to Zack Itibus Camacho.

The Social Studies award was presented to Costales and Jun Hirase Zhang.

The Science award was presented to Costales and Laura Hui Bin Wang.

The Math award was presented to Clyve Jairus Elchico De Guzman, and Alfred Ritz Borja Sabanal.

The Language Arts award was presented to Costales and Chester Lopena Torres.

The Physical Education award was given to Maria Corazon Ayson Batallones and Laura Hui Bin Wang.

The Leadership Corps award went to Hayden Romeo Igisomar and James Gavriel Matias Mercader.

The CCLHS award went to Maxine Angela Amado Candare.

The Agriculture Award went to Teressa Lin Ahn and Laura Sibong Cabrera Mareham.

The Computer Literacy Award went to Teressa Lin Ahn and Alfred Ritz Borja Sabanal.

LEIGH GASES
The Board of Education Award is presented to the father, Sammy Costales, and aunt, Jessica Costales, of class valedictorian Mark Ryan Ortizo Costales, who was present through video chat on his aunt's phone, as he is off island.

Class salutatorian Hayden Romeo Igisomar poses with his family and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada and Hopwood Middle School principal Victorino Borja as he is presented the Commissioner of Education Award. LEIGH GASES

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857/58 | Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Website: www.cnmicasinocommission.com
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission hereby gives notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. However, because of the limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via videoconference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Approval of Minutes: April 28, 2022

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS:
A. Report by the Chairman
B. Report by the Executive Director

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:
A. Casino Licensee – Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") – Status & Updates
1. Removal of Tower Cranes #1 and #5 at IPR
2. Employee Payroll and Related Benefits Obligations
3. Unpaid payroll & severance pay for employees already off-island
4. 2020 & 2021 Annual Exclusive Casino License Fees. Due Aug 12th each year
5. 2020 & 2021 Annual Casino Regulatory Fees. Due Oct 1st each year

B. Other Miscellaneous Matters.
1. Update: IPI's Notice of Appeal, Civil Case No. 21-0173

V. OLD BUSINESS:

VI. NEW BUSINESS:
1. CCC Resolution to establish a checking account at the Bank of Guam, Saipan Branch.
2. Governor Torres appointment of Martin T. Mendiola, dated April 28, 2022, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Casino Commission to represent the First Senatorial District.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
A. Consult with Legal Counsel
B. Report by the CCC Divisions
C. CCC Personnel Matters

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero
Chairman

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commission will be conducting an Administrative & Evidentiary Hearing on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 and if necessary, on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, to hear Complaints No. 2021-001 through 2021-005 filed against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC. The Hearing will begin at 10:00 am at the Commission's 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. There will be no public comments allowed during the hearing.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-22-026

LEASE OF OFFICE/WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR CUC POWER DIVISION TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION SECTION, SAIPAN CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office & warehouse spaces for CUC Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-22-026, Lease of Office/Warehouse Space for CUC Power Division Transmission and Distribution Section, Saipan, CNMI"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 5, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC, Power Division Manager via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Saipan SDA Clinic celebrates 50 years

Fifty years in 2022!

Established in 1972, Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic turns 50 this year. To celebrate this milestone, the clinic aptly emblazons its golden anniversary theme: "Celebrating 50 years of providing exceptional dental services in the CNMI."

The Saipan SDA Clinic has gone a long way from its humble beginning. It all started in a two-bedroom house in Susupe with Dr. Steve Fisher as the lone dentist. Now Saipan SDA Clinic has 12 operatories, a general anesthesia room, in-house laboratory, and specialty services in orthodontics, periodontics, and oral surgery. For what the Lord has wrought through the years, there are so many reasons to thank God for His providential leading and divine guidance.

We are standing on the shoulders of the pioneers and those who followed them for steering the clinic into the forefront, giving Saipan a state-of-the-art dental practice and community services that go beyond the corners of the dental chair.

To our workers whose loyalty and dedication we recognize as great contribution to the clinic's achievement and success, thank you very much.

The clinic has also been blessed with partners and stakeholders who sailed with us through good times and hard times. We appreciate their confidence in collaborating with us.

Foremost, our gratefulness goes to our dear patients for trusting us to provide them honest and ethical care. It is our commitment to continue to live up to and exceed the community's expectations to continue building this trust.

As we commemorate this great milestone, we invite the CNMI community to celebrate this jubilee with us. Bring your family and invite your friends to these events. It is our way of expressing our gratitude by giving back to you.

MAY 26 (Thursday) 4:30pm–5pm - Flag waving (Beach Road)
5pm – 5:15pm - Unveiling of the anniversary marker

MAY 27 (Friday) 8am to 12pm - Open House
Each visitor, kids and tots included, receives a giveaway.
Door prizes available for lucky winners.
Finger foods and drinks will be provided.

MAY 28 (Saturday) 9:00 am to 12:30 pm - Sabbath program
Fellowship meal will be served.

MAY 29 (Sunday) 8:00 am to 12:00 noon - Free clinic
Open to those with no dental insurance.
Services include extraction, cleaning, filling and oral cancer screening ***(PR)***

Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
Dentistry
SAIPAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CLINIC
Celebrating 50 years of providing exceptional care since 1972
CELEBRATING 50th Anniversary
Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
providing exceptional care since 1972
Operating Hours
Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Contact Us
Phone: (670)234-6323
Fax: (670)234-0521
Email: info@saipansdadental.com
CELEBRATION CALENDAR
OPEN HOUSE
May 27 (Friday) 8:00 am to 12 noon
• Get a chance to win door prizes.
• Each visitor, kids and tots included, receives a giveaway.
• Refreshments will be served.
SABBATH PROGRAM
May 28 (Saturday) 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
• Fellowship meal will be served.
FREE CLINIC
May 29 (Sunday) 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
• Open to those with NO dental insurance.
• Services include extraction, cleaning, filling and oral cancer screening.

DPS checkpoints on May 24, 26, 28

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting six separate Occupant Protection and Child Restraint Checkpoints on May 24, 26, and 28.

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

The first checkpoint will be along Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau to Beach Road, Chalan Piao from 7am to 9am.

The second checkpoint will be along Beach Road Garapan, to Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa from 10am to 12pm.

Thursday, May 26, 2022

The first checkpoint will be along Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Sadog Tasi to Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai from 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

The second checkpoint will be along Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Lau Lau to Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Puerto Rico from 5pm to 7pm.

Saturday, May 28, 2022

The first checkpoint will be along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dan Dan to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose from 9:45am to 12pm.

The second checkpoint will be along Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, Kobler to Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, As Lito from 2pm to 4pm ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC fall 2022 info session on June 2

Northern Marianas College is inviting all community members who are interested in advancing their careers and furthering their education to attend NMC's free information session on June 2, 2022.

The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the Olympio T. Borja Library at the college's As Terlaje campus. The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and admissions.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2022 semester, a savings of about $75.

NMC's fall 2022 semester will begin on Aug. 15, 2022. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Precinct 2 spring cleanup this Saturday

Precinct 2 residents are invited to clean up around their homes and neighborhoods this Saturday, May 21, 2022.

Bring collected household waste, roadside litter, yard debris, and junk appliances to the Mount Carmel field in Chalan Kanoa (in front of the cemetery) between 8am and 12pm. Please note: no hazardous materials will be accepted.

For more information, or assistance with trash pickup or supplies on Saturday, call the Office of Rep. Christina Sablan at 664-8829 or 285-5392, or the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan at 664-8841. ***(PR)***

UoG regent nominating council meeting

The regular meeting of the University of Guam Regent Nominating Council is rescheduled for 3pm on Thursday, May 26, at the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero Business and Public Administration building, Room 262.

A broadcast of the meeting via video livestream will be available on the UOG YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/uogtritons.

This complies with paragraph 3 of the Governor's Executive Order No. 2021-05, dated Feb. 27, 2021, related to Open Government and Participation in Meetings via Teleconferencing during the emergency declaration period.

The University of Guam complies with Guam Public Law 36-34 changes to the Open Government Law and Guam Public Law 24-109 with reference to the provisions and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. For special accommodations, please contact the ADA coordinator at (671) 735-2244 or (TTY) (671) 735-2243. Live closed captioning is available through a website link provided within the online meeting. ***(PR)***

New law appropriate $254,500 for TCGCC's personnel, operations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed Monday a local bill that seeks limited appropriations in the amount of $254,500 for the personnel and operations of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission for fiscal year 2022.

Torres informed Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) that House Local Bill 22-30, S1 is now Tinian Local Law 22-07.

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) introduced the bill last March 29. The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation passed the bill last April 27.

Under the bill, $185,706 is appropriated for the personnel and operations of the TCGCC-Commission Division and the Division of Enforcement-Administration beginning July 1, 2022, and ending on Oct. 1, 2022.

The amount of $68,794 is appropriated and carried forward to fund the personnel and operation of TCGCC Commission Division and Division of Enforcement-Administration in fiscal year 2023.

San Nicolas stated in the bill that TALD finds that the identified local revenue for fiscal year 2022 xais not enough to satisfy in full all the personnel and operational expenses of the TCGCC, Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, and the Tinian Municipal Treasurer up to the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, 2022.

Accordingly, San Nicolas said, the TALD finds it necessary to appropriate the identified local revenue for the expenses of the Commission Division and the Division of Enforcement-Administration of the TCGCC from July 1, 2022, to Sept. 30, 2022.

DPL selects DCA for Tinian Homestead Parceling Project

A Guam-based firm with contracted works in Guam and the CNMI, Duenas, Camacho, & Associates, has kicked off the parcel-survey on Tinian.

was by

The Department of Public Lands selected DCA late last year among three other bidders for the "Parceling Surveying Services" (for Kastiyu and Marpo Heights Phase II). The total award for Kastiyu and Marpo Heights Phase II is at $134,522.48 and $63,771.16, respectively (for a total of $198,293.64).

The procured service of DCA is expected to be completed between April to May of next year, 2023. The Marpo Heights Phase II Village Homestead site was initially identified back in 2009 by DPL and was later surveyed with an A&E design by Pacific Engineering Group & Services.

The Kastiyu Agricultural Homestead site, on the other hand, was not identified until 2016. The DPL surveying team alone did the A&E survey for Kastiyu. Now, due to time constraints on all the other projects, DPL outsourced to DCA via requests fir proposals for the parceling and markings of the two sites on Tinian. DCA completed the parceling and surveying markings for the Marpo Heights Phase II village homestead on April 15, 2022, and parceling and survey markings for the Kastiyu agricultural homestead will begin the second or third week of June, inclusive of the rights-of-way.

Meanwhile, the DPL Surveying Team continues to catch up on all the other backlogged projects. Because of the availability of American Rescue Plan Act funds in the last general appropriation act, the surveyors were able to return to Fina'Fa, Rota, to retrace the village homestead boundaries. The DPL Planning Division is expected to revisit Fina'Fa before the end of this fiscal year, to assist in clearing the access roads for the water infrastructure development. ***(PR)***

Water service Interruptions this Saturday

There will be an emergency water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in Upper and South San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Naftan Road and Obyan on Saturday, May 21, 2022, from 8:30am to 4pm.

The emergency water interruption is to allow CUC operations personnel to repair three 2-inch main service lateral leaks located on Railroad Drive in Upper San Vicente. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after the repairs.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-GOV-PA-MOR-42200100

ROTA MAYOR'S OFFICE BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT RENOVATION

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Public Assistance Office (PAO) are soliciting sealed bids for the Rota Mayor's Office Buildings and Equipment Renovation, in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on **Friday, May 13, 2022** at the CNMI Public Assistance Office (CNMI PAO), Office of the Governor, Marina Heights II, Suite 303 Puerto Rico, Saipan. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained in the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70.30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current
U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference on **May 31, 2022** at **1:00 PM** ChST, at the project site in Rota, CNMI. Questions concerning this project must be directed to Patrick C. Guerrero in writing by e-mail: info@pa.gov.mp on or before, **June 03, 2022** to the Public Assistance Office, Office of the Governor. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB22-GOV-PA-MOR-42200100: Rota Mayor's Office Buildings and Equipment Renovation"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services located at the Horiguchi Bldg. Ground Floor, 123 Koppa Di Oru & Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan no later than **9:30 AM ChST, June 13, 2022**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notice of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **9:30 AM, ChST, June 13, 2022**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to bidintent@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 13, 2022**, and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement Services at P.O. Box 510008, C.K., Saipan, MP 96950 and the bid documents received no later than **June 21, 2022**. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement Services, Horiguchi Bldg. Ground Floor, 123 Koppa Di Oru & Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, at **9:30 AM, ChST, June 22, 2022**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **9:30 AM, ChST, on June 13, 2022**..

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other

surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be Two Hundred dollars ($200.00) per day, and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS
(To be part of Solicitation for quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

• **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from other person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-340- 725(a).

• **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

• **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to wave any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Francisco C Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-GOV-PA-MOR-42200099

ROTA MAYOR'S OFFICE PARKS AND FACILITIES RENOVATION

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Public Assistance Office (PAO) are soliciting sealed bids for the Rota Mayor's Office Parks and Facilities Renovation, in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on **Friday, May 13, 2022** at the CNMI Public Assistance Office (CNMI PAO), Office of the Governor, Marina Heights II, Suite 303 Puerto Rico, Saipan. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained in the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70.30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference on **May 31, 2022** at **9:00 AM ChST**, at the project site in Rota, CNMI. Questions concerning this project must be directed to Patrick C. Guerrero in writing by e-mail: info@pa.gov.mp on or before, **June 03, 2022** to the Public Assistance Office, Office of the Governor. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB22-GOV-PA-MOR-42200099: Rota Mayor's Office Parks and Facilities Renovation"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services located at the Horiguchi Bldg. Ground Floor, 123 Koppa Di Oru & Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan no later than **9:00 AM ChST, June 13, 2022**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notice of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **9:00 AM, ChST, June 13, 2022**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to bidintent@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 13, 2022** and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement Services at P.O. Box 510008, C.K., Saipan, MP 96950 and the bid documents received no later than **June 21, 2022.** Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement Services, Located at the Horiguchi Bldg. Ground Floor, 123 Koppa Di Oru & Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, at **9:00 AM, ChST, June 22, 2022**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **9:00 AM, ChST, on June 13, 2022.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be Two Hundred dollars ($200.00) per day, and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS
(To be part of Solicitation for quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

• **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from other person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-340-725(a).

• **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

• **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to wave any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

/S/ Francisco C Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Saipan joins celebration of May as National Water Safety Month

LEIGH GASES

After the signing of a proclamation designating May as National Water Safety Month, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, center, poses for a photo with Western Pacific Training Solutions president Glenn Policare, fourth from right; Swim for Life CNMI project manager Jeremiah Benavente, right; grant writer Valrick Welch, second from left; 500 Sails community program director Marjorie Daria, third from left; Cultural Maritime training director Eva Cruz, third from right; and special assistant to the mayor Henry Hofschneider, left.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan has joined the celebration of May as National Water Safety Month after Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang signed a proclamation last Tuesday in the Saipan Mayor's Office designating the month for the occasion.

Apatang said in the proclamation that Saipan residents should "understand the essential role that education regarding the topic of water safety plays in preventing drownings and recreational water-related injuries…and recognize the ongoing efforts and commitments to educate the public on pool and spa safety issues and initiatives by the pool, spa, waterpark, recreation and parks industries."

The proclamation signing was witnessed by Swim for Life CNMI project manager Jeremiah Benavente, grant writer Valrick Welch, 500 Sails community program director Marjorie Daria, Cultural Maritime Training Center director Eva Cruz, and Western Pacific Solutions LLC president Glenn Policare. Policare also provided some background information of the nationwide campaign.

This came about after Cathy Haggarty, National Water Safety Month coordinator of the World Waterpark Association, reached out to the mayor and invited Saipan to join 44 states and American Samoa in support of National Water Safety Month.

According to the World Waterpark Association, National Water Safety Month is an initiative designed to promote water safety and to encourage Americans to be more "water aware." The goal of this joint partnership is to educate the public on their role in safe water practices and the prevention of recreation water-related injuries, illnesses, and deaths.

Nationwide, the National Water Safety Month is an annual awareness campaign coordinated by the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance with support from the American Red Cross, National Recreation and Park Association and World Waterpark Association.

USDOL recovers $17K for 10 workers in Guam

TAMUNING, Guam—A federal investigation has found that a construction company under contract with the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority disregarded its legal obligation to pay 10 workers the required overtime rate for hours worked over 40 in a work week.

» O.H. Construction also assessed $6K in penalties

Investigators with the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division determined that O.H. Construction—owned by Michael Jeon Lee—violated the Fair Labor Standards Act. The employer also violated minimum wage, payroll and basic records provisions of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts by not paying the higher applicable wage to workers in multiple job categories. The company also did not display or make available required DBRA informational resources at the work site, as the law requires.

The division recovered $17,640 in back wages and liquidated damages for the affected workers, and assessed $6,170 in civil money penalties for reckless disregard of the act.

"Employers can't enter into ad-hoc agreements with workers that deny them their lawfully earned overtime wages," said Wage and Hour Division district director Terence Trotter, in Honolulu. "Employers should take advantage of the many educational tools we offer in order to avoid costly violations such as those found in this case."

In fiscal year 2021, the Wage and Hour Division identified more than $36 million in wages owed to people working in the construction industry.

For more information about the FLSA and other laws enforced by the division, contact the agency's toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243) with questions. Learn more about the Wage and Hour Division, including a search tool to use if you think you may be owed back wages collected by the division. Workers can call the Wage and Hour Division confidentially with questions—regardless of their immigration status—and the department can speak with callers in more than 200 languages. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

What's the vaccine for hate?

Charleston, 2015. Nine Black churchgoers killed.

Pittsburgh, 2018. Eleven Jewish worshippers killed.

El Paso, 2019. Twenty-three Latino shoppers killed.

Buffalo, 2022. Ten people killed, eight of them Black.

To these American atrocities, let us add two more that have served as models and inspirations from around the world.

Oslo, Norway, 2011. Seventy-seven people, mostly young, killed in a bomb attack and mass shooting.

Christchurch, New Zealand, 2019. Fifty-one Muslim worshippers killed.

What all these terrorist attacks share are perpetrators motivated by hatred and fear. Specifically, it is a fear kindled by something called "replacement theory." The idea is that a shadowy global cabal, often associated with Jews, is systemically replacing white people with darker-skinned peoples. Accused Tree of Life shooter Robert Bowers believed this.

It's a theory that capitalizes on the fear of lost power and privileges that comes with increased racial diversity. It gives people already given to distrust and hatred a focus for their animus. And an identity.

But there's something else that unites the shooters, this time with the exception of the Pittsburgh killer: their youth. The Oslo terrorist was 31 at the time, but is said to have begun conceiving his plot a decade earlier. The Christchurch killer was 28, close to the age of Timothy McVeigh at the time of the Oklahoma City bombing. But the Charleston and El Paso shooters were each 21, barely old enough to get a legal drink. And the Buffalo shooter is 18 years old.

It is often thought that hate takes a long time to curdle into murder. But these young killers suggest something else: Hate can be an answer. The hate is all they have, and doing something about it is the only future they can imagine for themselves.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul's called for restrictions on hate speech, which she compared to a virus. But as we've learned from the past two years, viruses can't be regulated by law. They find a way to survive and thrive. No law can squelch all the niches of the internet where hate lives. Young men who want to hate will find reasons.

We need vaccination. A vaccine doesn't kill the virus, but keeps those who've gotten it from getting sick.

It is clear beyond a doubt that the people most likely to catch the virus of hate are young men who lack secure social foundations: an intact family, close friendships, economic opportunity. The identity and purpose they should receive from these things, they find in hate, justified by racist ideas like "replacement theory."

A vaccine for this social privation won't be a "magic bullet" vaccine, a simple answer like gun control or censoring social media. It will be a societywide commitment to supporting families, to providing meaningful well-paying work for all who want it, to creating a culture of belonging rather than one of alienation.

The government can't do it on its own. Every person and every institution in American society must administer it to those they can, and in so doing build a healthier, more peaceful world.

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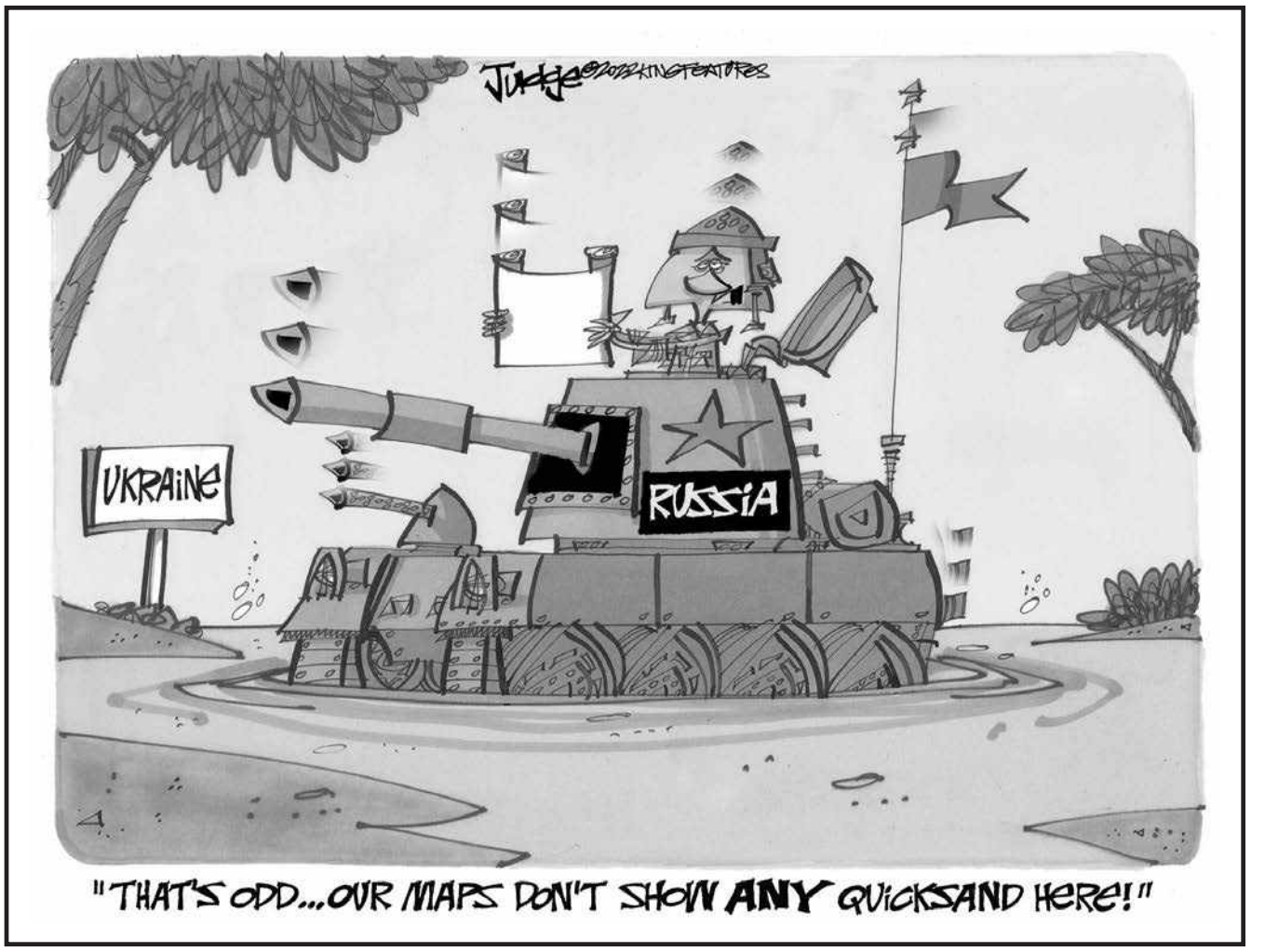


Day after day of gun violence in America. Nothing changes

By MARK Z. BARABAK
Los Angeles Times

Mark Z. Barabak is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times*, focusing on politics in California and the West.*

"Nothing changed after moviegoers were slaughtered in Aurora. Nothing changed after children were massacred in Newtown, after worshipers were killed inside a church in Charleston, after office workers were mowed down at a holiday party in San Bernardino."

I wrote those words in June 2017, after Republican members of Congress were attacked by a gunman on a softball field just outside the nation's capital.

Nothing changed.

Except, of course, there have been a great many more mass shootings, adding Atlanta; Orlando, Fla.; Las Vegas; El Paso; Pittsburgh; Boulder, Colo.; Parkland, Fla.; and many other cities, large and small, to the sanguinary toll.

The latest violent spasms came this past weekend in Buffalo and Orange County, where 11 people were killed and seven were wounded while, respectively, shopping at the supermarket and enjoying an after-church lunch. Mondays used to be the day to recount the big sports news from the weekend. Now we tote up gun carnage.

Nothing has changed, except a loosening of gun laws throughout much of the country, where promiscuity is a celebrated virtue when it comes to the availability of firearms.

In San Francisco last week a federal appeals court ruled that California's ban on selling semiautomatic rifles to anyone under 21 violates the constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense. It's impermissible to buy a six-pack, but OK to wield a knockoff AK-47.

The shooter in Buffalo was 18.

For days now, the airwaves and social media have been filled with the voices of young people, thick with righteousness and anger, vowing never again.

I wrote those words in February 2018, days after a gunman slaughtered 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

I posed a question then: Will the student-led protests against gun violence dramatically change politics and lead the president and Congress to act in a way that other explosions of fury and grief — after Virginia Tech, Aurora, Newtown, Charleston, San Bernardino, Orlando and Las Vegas did not?

The answer is no.

There have been many attempts to pass national gun control laws since 1994, when Democratic lawmakers led by California Sen. Dianne Feinstein pushed through a ban on the possession, manufacture, use and importation of 19 types of semiautomatic firearms. Many Democrats paid by losing their seats that November. The ban was allowed to lapse 10 years later.

The debate over guns and gun control in many ways distills the very essence of politics today, where opposing sides don't simply differ on philosophical or ideological grounds but fail to agree on even the basic facts.

It also underscores the power of one of the country's mightiest special-interest groups, the National Rifle Assn., and its hold over Republican lawmakers whose greatest fear is not losing an election to a Democrat but, given gerrymandering, a Republican primary opponent with an even harder-line view on guns.

That is one reason Congress has failed to pass a law requiring universal background checks, even though the overwhelming majority of Americans express their support. Notwithstanding that fact, the overwhelming majority of Americans don't vote in individual GOP primaries.

I wrote those words back in 2017. Though the NRA has struggled with internal scandal, the fundamental politics surrounding gun control remain the same.

The sway of the NRA and other groups opposing tougher gun laws is also a function of one of the most fundamental tenets of politics: intensity and persistent engagement matters far more than raw numbers.

Supporters of unfettered gun rights may be "a minority of the population but they have a degree of loyalty and emotional attachment to their movement that isn't reflected on the opposing side," said Robert Spitzer, a professor of political science at State University of New York at Cortland.

"It's only when the mass shooting occurs that the public pays real attention," said Spitzer, who has written five books on gun policy. "But the sentiment doesn't last long. Most people turn

See AMERICA on Next Page

2022 Liberation Day Parade to mark 76 years of freedom

TOGETHER, WE CAN
By HENRY HOFSCHNEIDER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Henry Hofschneider is the special assistant to the mayor of Saipan. While he does wear multiple hats in the Mayor's Office, Henry also takes lead in the Home Numbering program where homeowners can now have a physical street address and number. The GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

In June of 1944, during the Pacific Campaign of World War II, U.S. Marines took the beaches of Saipan that had been under Japanese stronghold. In 1946, two years after the American Invasion of Saipan, and when the island was declared secure, our people were released from U.S. military-run concentration camps. Though none faced life-threatening situations in Camp Susupe, the entire Indigenous population was held against their will. They were locked up inside this camp until July 4, 1946.

What makes Liberation Day significant to me is that we can celebrate the liberation of those who were held captive in the camps. It was the moment when our great-grandfathers, great-grandmothers, uncles, aunts, and parents could step out into freedom and breathe in the fresh air. Our people could finally go to the areas where they used to farm and plant crops.

As we look back on our history, I'd like to welcome every resident of the Marianas to join us as we celebrate 76 years of freedom this July. This year's celebration and parade will be quite meaningful, and I look forward to returning to the tradition that has unified us these past 76 years.

Liberation Day Parade

The earliest vivid memory that I have of the first Liberation Day parade I attended was in Chalan Kanoa. In the open field, I remember watching the parade on the road, which consisted of mostly military Jeeps. The military marched in their uniforms and metal hats with the banging of drums following them. During another Liberation Day parade, I remember seeing old men and women riding on a bull carts, which at the time was considered a float entry.

Personally, there's nothing that I would want to see different this year from the previous parade. The last Liberation Day we celebrated in the Marianas was in 2019. This year, I do hope to see many floats and vendors commemorating what our people went through 76 years ago.

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan and staff have been working hard to resume the Liberation Day festivities and return to some normalcy after two years of living with COVID-19. Instead of a weeklong festival, we have cut down festivities to five days.

The celebration will take place at the Garapan Fishing Base and will start on June 30 and will end on July 4. What makes this year's festival unique is that we will have added a special 30-minute firework display from 10pm to 10:30pm, which will be spectacular.

We aim to give out prizes for participants in the float competition. The first-place winner will take home $5,000, second place is $4,000, third place is $3,000, fourth place is $2,000, fifth place is $1,000, and the consolation prize is $500.

At this point, a theme has not been set for this year's 76th Liberation Day celebration. We are inviting the community to submit their ideas for a theme. We'd like to tie it in with the previous two years of COVID and how we are emerging into brighter days ahead. For more information about how you can participate in the parade or suggest a theme, call or visit the Saipan Mayor's office.

As we prepare to celebrate Liberation Day, may we all remember what and who we are celebrating. Let's remember those who sacrificed and devoted their lives to protecting our freedoms. We remember our veterans, including those who defended the Marianas in World War II. We honor our brothers, our sisters, our sons, and our daughters in uniform who continue to defend the CNMI and the United States.

For more information about GCEA's programs, visit cnmieconomy.com, engage with the council on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

'This was not a trial. This was a travesty of justice

Editor's Note: The following is a statement from the majority bloc of the House of Representatives in the 22nd Commonwealth Legislature:

A crime was committed against our people [Wednesday] afternoon. Sens. Jude Hofschneider, Francisco Cruz, Karl King-Nabors and Victor Hocog perpetrated a great injustice against our system of government, the framers of our constitution, and our people.

Six times the roll was called to convict the governor and six times these senators betrayed the public's trust when they voted no. Despite 8,000 pages of evidence and hours of video-recorded witness testimonies available to prove the Articles of Impeachment, these senators ignored their duty to the people of the Commonwealth and sided with the governor. Simply put, they chose politics over the people.

What happened [Wednesday] afternoon comes as no surprise for the result of the governor's Impeachment trial was determined when the Senate adopted its rules that purposefully bound the hands of House of Representatives and provided Gov. Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres a virtual "get out of jail free" card.

After the one-sided rules were in place, the Senate president continued to mock the process when he either changed the rules to accommodate the governor's defense or blatantly violated the rules altogether. The governor's lawyers were even permitted to testify on matters of fact in lieu of questioning witnesses, and they did so without taking an oath.

There were no prosecutors, no cross-examination, no objections to procedural violations, and no rebuttals to misinformation. And when the senators attempted to freely ask questions of the defense witnesses, the Senate president compelled them to put all their questions to him in writing, and then he screened their questions, censored some of them, and restricted follow-ups.

This was not a trial. This was a travesty of justice.

Another casualty of [Wednesday] afternoon's proceedings was the Senate's integrity. By virtue of their actions [that] afternoon, the Senate confirmed its standing as nothing more than an extension of the Executive Branch, with Senate President Jude Hofschneider presiding as Gov. Torres's appointed resident director of Legislative Affairs.

Every cloud has a silver lining, and the same goes for the dark cloud that will remain over the Senate until this November. Throughout this farce, the interests of the CNMI were championed by Sens. Paul Manglona, Teresita Santos, and Edith Deleon Guerrero. In the face of ridicule and censorship from the Senate president, these three withstood the attacks from their colleagues and overcame obstacles to voice the will of the people.

'It ended exactly as expected'

By CHRISTINA M. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rep. Christina M. Sablan is a member of the House of Representatives in the 22nd Legislature.

There were no surprises at all about the outcome of the Senate impeachment 'trial.'

In a way, it would have made no difference in the outcome even if the Senate leadership had allowed the team of House prosecutors appointed by the speaker, and all 8,000 pages of evidence plus video- recorded testimony. There would have been at least some appearance of impartiality, so there's that.

But the verdict would have still been a foregone conclusion.

Look no further than how the senators voted on Article 6, neglect of duty, contempt of the Legislature. Contempt is failure to comply with a valid subpoena. All officers and employees of the commonwealth are required by law to cooperate with legislative investigations. The JGO Committee subpoenaed Gov. Ralph Torres. He failed to show up, so we held him in contempt.

The attorney general said the subpoena was valid and charged Torres with the crime of contempt. The court said the subpoena was valid, and junked Torres' lawsuit against the JGO.

Torres had a statutory duty to comply with a valid subpoena, and he neglected that duty. As Rep. Ed Propst observed in his statement to the Senate during public comments, "It really is that simple."

The Senate leadership still voted no.

There are some shining stars in the Senate who deserve recognition and gratitude. Sens. Paul Manglona, Edith Deleon Guerrero, and Teresita Santos: thank you for your courage. Thank you for dissenting. Thank you for your steadfast loyalty to the people we serve.

The Senate 'trial' was a train wreck, an utter travesty of justice. It ended exactly as expected. But I firmly believe justice will prevail nevertheless—perhaps through the courts, perhaps in November.

Response to dismissal of lawsuit vs JGO Committee

Editor's Note: The Office of the Governor issued the following statement on May 18, 2022, in response to the dismissal of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' lawsuit against the House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee.

The Superior Court has held that the Office of the Governor could not proceed with its case against the House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee. Although the administration respects the decision of the judge, we believe the decision is erroneous by ignoring and misinterpreting law and precedent. For example, in its rush to follow federal precedent, it skipped right over the plain text of the Commonwealth Constitution. Then it overlooked some of the most important protections found even in the federal cases—such as the rule that the legislature may subpoena the executive only when the information it needs is not reasonably available anywhere else. The decision will be appealed. It will be for the Supreme Court to ultimately decide the merits of this civil case.

In any event, no matter how much the governor's opponents may spin it, a civil case has no bearing on the impeachment process. It also does not defeat the fact that contempt is not an impeachable offense, or that Gov. Torres has affirmative defenses provided by that same contempt statute. The civil case also does not overcome the fact that the Articles of Impeachment contain unconstitutional penalties.

It is for the Senate, and the Senate alone, to decide whether the House JGO Committee acted properly in commanding the governor to come before it, whether the governor acted reasonably in response, and whether Gov. Torres engaged in an impeachable offense warranting his removal from office. Ultimately, it is for the Senate to decide whether to disregard the CNMI Constitution as the Articles of Impeachment ask it to do.

Gov. Torres statement: "I have received the decision from Judge Bellas, and although we disagree with his decision, I would like to personally thank him for the time and attention he gave to this judicial issue. This is extremely important for our Commonwealth, its people and its government, and we deserve a full and correct determination on the issue. Accordingly, we will appeal this decision and ask the Supreme Court to overrule it."

AMERICA

From Page 10

their attention back to other things, as does the media, and soon it's back to business as usual."

I wrote those words in 2018.

Nothing has changed.

This is the last column on gun violence I intend to write for some time, maybe ever. What's the point? It's all repetition, and that repetition is maddening and sickening.

People die, horribly and needlessly, and the status quo abides.

You can be sure a great many more mass shootings will follow and the toll will keep growing ever higher. Barring a fundamental shift, Congress will fail to pass meaningful gun control legislation.

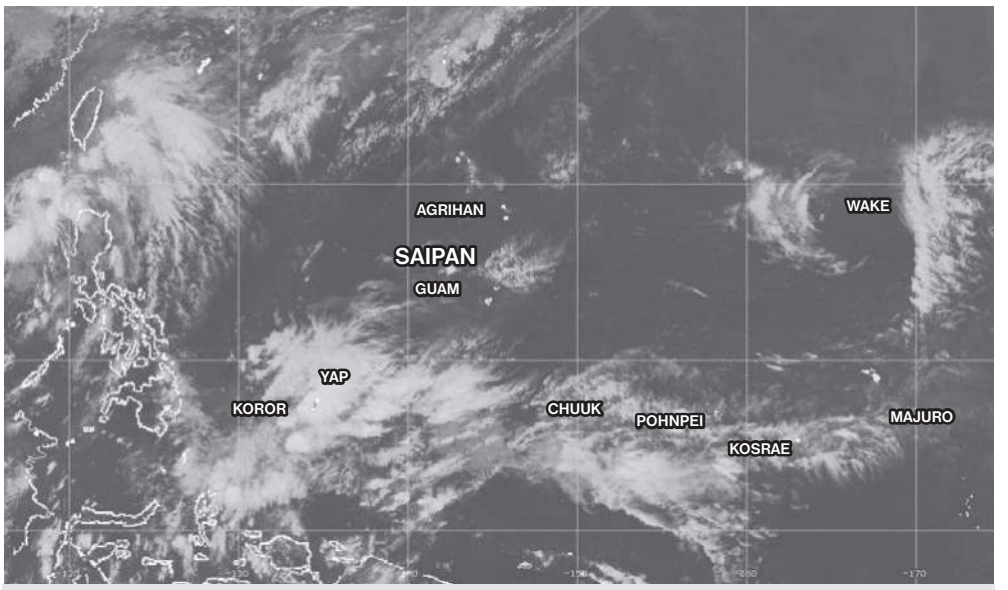
Nothing changes.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. East southeast wind around 8 mph	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. East southeast wind 7 to 9 mph	Partly sunny, with Isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy, with a chance of showers.	Partly sunny, with a chance of showers.
88° 76°	88° 76°	88° 76°	89° 76°	89° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME:6:45 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

With one exception, Marianas skies are partly cloudy with isolated showers. The exception is over the NW waters of Tinian and Saipan, where skies are cloudy as blow-off from thunderstorms out to the west streams across the region on 25-30 kt west winds at 40000 ft. But radar shows the thunderstorms well outside the coastal waters and moving quickly westward. See the tropical section below for more on this system. Meanwhile, gentle trade winds and combined seas of 3 to 4 feet are present across the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	31 / 26 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	28 / 24 °F
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F
Majuro	AM Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:47 AM	18:39 PM
Saturday	05:47 AM	18:40 PM
Sunday	05:46 AM	18:40 PM
Monday	05:46 AM	18:40 PM
Tuesday	05:46 AM	18:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	09:33 PM	23:07 PM
Saturday	-	10:38 PM	-
Sunday	00:01	11:39 PM	-
Monday	00:49	12:37 PM	-
Tuesday	01:31	13:31 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers/Wind	17 / 13 °F
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	33 / 17 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	28 / 24 °F
Honolulu	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 23 °F
London	AM Light Rain	18 / 11 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	19 / 15°F
Manila	Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	16 / 6 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	23 / 18 °F
Osaka	Cloudy	25 / 18 °F
Paris	Thunderstorms	26 / 11 °F
Busan	Cloudy	24 / 16 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	28 / 14 °F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	32 / 31 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	22 / 10 °F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	26 / 14 °F
Tokyo	Cloudy	26 / 18 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	34 / 23 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
05:11 AM	Low Tide	1.51
09:29 AM	High Tide	2.00
5:15 PM	Low Tide	-0.37
12:56 AM	High Tide	2.07

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:35AM	7:15AM	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:35AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	6:35AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX622	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 6
UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	5, 7
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:25PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

MVA hosts Tinian photography Facebook contest

In celebration of May Tourism Month, the Marianas Visitors Authority has launched the "Capture Your Island Treasure" photo contest on Facebook, featuring Tinian.

The contest invites participants to post their favorite photo of Tinian on Facebook with the hashtags #VisitTheMarianas and #CNMITourismMonth. Participants must also follow and tag the MVA official FB page @VisitTheMarianas. Entries must the owned by the participants.

"Toward our goal of highlighting the Marianas as a multi-island destination, this contest gives participants from near and far the opportunity to share their favorite Tinian places, experiences, and personal treasures," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "We invite everyone to share their favorite things about the beautiful island of Tinian!"

The entry deadline is May 27, 2022, at 5pm. Winners will be announced on the MVA Facebook page Visit The Marianas on May 31. Prizes are $500 for first place, $300 for second place, and $100 for tghird place.

For more information, visit contact MVA Tinian field supervisor Vida Borja at 433-9365. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Photos of House of Taga and other sites on Tinian in the Marianas are some of scenes eligible for the Marianas Visitors Authority's Facebook contest "Share Your Island Treasure" during May Tourism Month 2021.

Tinian child care providers take part in CPR and first aid training

Three child care providers on Tinian were trained last May 14, 2022, on how to respond to and manage illnesses and injuries in a young child or infant in their facilities or home.

The training, called "Pediatric CPR and First Aid," was done at the new Child Care and Development Fund Program Tinian Office at Paradise Real Estate in San Jose.

The training was facilitated by Maureen Sebangiol, an American Heart Association CPR instructor and registered respiratory therapy educator.

The training was 5.5 hours long and included an audio-visual presentation from the American Heart Association, demonstrations by the instructor, and hands-on activities by the attendees.

This training is a requirement under the CCDF Program, and all providers are expected to take and complete this training as part of the condition to receive CCDF funds. All new CCDF providers within 90 days of approval must complete this training, as well as 11 other health and safety topics. Annually, all CCDF license exempt providers also must complete 15 hours of ongoing health and safety training. ***(PR)***

Help shape future of internet in NMI

CNMI-Broadband, part of the CNMI Office of Planning and Development under the CNMI Office of the Governor, will hold a Public Listening Session at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Monday, May 23, 2022, from 6pm to 7:30pm. This meeting will be open to all members of the public.

» OPD's CNMI-Broadband to host a public listening session on Monday

The primary purpose of this meeting will be to listen to public comments, concerns, goals, and aspirations for internet connectivity, digital equity, and broadband-related technologies, activities, and business within the CNMI.

The meeting will start with a brief introduction from CNMI-Broadband lead Peter Dresslar, who will unveil new draft Sustainable Development Goals related to internet access. The audience will be invited to comment on these goals. The CNMI-Broadband staff will also brief the audience on planned project activities for the remainder of the year, including some of the progress made with our Community Pillars and Marianas Broadband Outreach projects. The team will also communicate about some of the federal projects that will eventually make resources available to the Northern Marianas.

Audience members will then be invited to take the podium and voice their feedback on broadband-related challenges and the solutions they have for improving broadband locally and within the Commonwealth as a whole. No technical understanding will be required for members of the public to attend and participate.

Additional Public Listening Sessions are planned to be held on the islands of Rota and Tinian; details will be released when available.

CNMI-Broadband is a project of the CNMI Office of Planning and Development, working in partnership with the Office of Information Technology, CNMI Department of Finance. Its mission is to gather broadband data, develop a Commonwealth Broadband Strategy, and plan for and execute broadband projects using new federal resources, with the goal of affordable Broadband accessibility to all residents of the CNMI by 2030 or sooner.

CNMI-Broadband staff include lead planner Erin Derrington and acting project administrator Alex Castro. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of May 20, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR)	04/22/2022 SMS-2022-029	Garapan Revetment (Shoreline Stabilization) Project	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing* 05/24/2022
2. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	04/28/2022 SWMPICH-2022-030	Island-Wide Vegetation Clearing & Trimming	Island Wide Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves, Shoreline Ports & Industrial, Coastal Hazard	Approved* 05/10/2022
3. Le Grand Bleu, Inc.	05/02/2022 STLR-2018-X-174-R5	Scuba Diving Tour Operation/Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/18/2022
4. Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Division of Coastal Resources Management (BECQ-DCRM)	05/03/2022 SSLRCHm-2022-033	2nd Annual Saipan Ocean Fair	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef, Coastal Hazard	Approved* 05/10/2022
5. IRE Inc, dba Blue Palms Dive Service	05/04/2022 RLRm-2018-X-0611-R5 D	Marine Sports/Scuba Diving	All Designated Dive Sites Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/17/2022
6. Windsurfing Saipan, Inc.	05/06/2022 SLR-2018-X-118-R5	Windsurfing, Kayaking, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddleboard	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/18/2022
7. Yumiko N. Brundidge dba Naka's Diving Services	05/11/2022 STLR-2018-X-143-R5	Scuba Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/18/2022
8. CNMI United Investment Corporation, Ltd	05/11/2022 SS-2018-X-038-A1	Installation of Temporary Chainlink Fence, Staging & Stockpiling, Field Office, Storage and Backfilling	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review
9. Marine Tech (Saipan) Inc. dba S2 Club	05/13/2022 STLR-2018-X-130-R5	Scuba Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/18/2022
10. Phoenix Enterprises, Inc. dba Phoenix Marine Sports	05/13/2022 SLR-2018-X-114-R5	Hobie Cat, Sailing, Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/18/2022
11. Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)	05/17/2022 SMS-03-X-21-A1	Airport Rescue & Fire Fighting Facility (ARFF) Rapid Refill Project	Dandan, Saipan	Major Siting	Application* Review
12. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	05/19/2022 TMS-2022-035	Triple J Barracks & Commercial Building	Marpo Valley, Tinian	Major Siting	Application* Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Business

New Zealand hands out extra cash to fight 'inflation storm'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's government said Thursday it will hand out an extra few hundred dollars to more than 2 million lower-income adults to help them navigate what it describes as "the peak of the global inflation storm."

The payments are part of a package of new measures announced in the government's annual budget. Other plans include increasing health spending by a record amount, putting more money into reducing greenhouse gas emissions and boosting defense spending.

A report by Treasury painted a rosy picture of the nation's economy through next year but warned growth would slow markedly from 2024 due to rising interest rates, a reduction in the government's pandemic spending, and supply issues made worse by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

A Treasury report forecast unemployment would hit a low of 3.1% this year before rising to 4.7% by 2026. It predicted inflation would fall from its current 30-year high of 6.9% to 2.2% over the next four years.

The inflation payments of 350 New Zealand dollars ($220) over three months begin in August and are targeted at the half of all adults who earn less than 70,000 New Zealand dollars ($44,000) per year. The government also decided to extend some other temporary measures aimed at combatting spiraling living costs, including a cut to gas taxes and half-price public transportation fares.

"Our economy has come through the COVID-19 shock better than almost anywhere else in the world," said Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in a statement. "But as the pandemic subsides, other challenges both long-term and more immediate have come to the fore."

Ardern has been isolating at her Wellington residence this week after catching the virus. Her office said she'd experienced moderate symptoms and was improving, and at this point still planned to travel to the U.S. next week for a trade trip and to give the commencement speech at Harvard University.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Federal agency sends team to probe Tesla crash that killed 3

DETROIT (AP)—The U.S. government's road safety agency has dispatched a team to investigate the possibility that a Tesla involved in a California crash that killed three people was operating on a partially automated driving system. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on Wednesday confirmed that it had sent a special crash investigation team to probe the May 12 crash on the Pacific Coast Highway in Newport Beach. The investigation is part of a larger inquiry by the agency into crashes involving advanced driver assistance systems such as Tesla's Autopilot. Since 2016, the agency has sent teams to 34 crashes in which the systems were either in use or suspected of operating. Of the 34, 28 involved Teslas, according to a NHTSA document released Wednesday. Fifteen people died in the crashes that NHTSA is investigating, and at least 15 more were hurt. Of the deaths, 14 occurred in crashes involving Teslas, the documents say.

NY agency files discrimination complaint against Amazon

A state agency in New York has filed an administrative complaint against Amazon, alleging the e-commerce giant discriminated against pregnant and disabled workers by denying reasonable accommodations and forcing them to take unpaid leave, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Wednesday. Amazon has more than 39,000 workers across New York in nearly two dozen worksites, which employ in-house consultants who evaluate accommodation requests, according to a statement from the governor's office. But the New York State Division of Human Rights, the agency that filed the complaint, alleges the retailer has a policy that allows onsite managers to override recommendations from the consultants, which has led to denials in the worker requests. State law requires all employers to provide reasonable accommodation for pregnant and disabled workers. The governor's office lists three separate employee requests from pregnant or disabled workers that it says were denied. ***(AP)***

Saipan Ice and Water Company
Job Vacancy Announcement

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Saipan Ice & Water Company, Inc.

The Position: Accountant

Job Description: Plans, coordinates, and supervises the functions and activities of the accounting department and cashier's officel Provides and interprets fundamental financial data and information to the president; Assumes entire performance and activities of the accounting functions; Reviews, formulates, recommends and implements accounting policies, systems, and procedures of the company; Provides overall planning, direction, supervision, coordination, and control of accounting works; Handles postings to general ledger from books of original entry; Verifies all journals, check and account payable vouchers and check propriety of entries and adequacy of supporting documents; Supervises and coordinates with bookkeeper to ensure that postings to the books of accounts are accurate and that the subsidiary ledgers are up to date and periodically reconciled with the general ledger; Reviews aging of accounts payables and receivables; Prepares the following financial statements and reports following generally accepted accounting principles and statutory basis: Balance Sheet, Statement of Income and Surplus, Statement of Cash Flows; and Annual Statements (Yellow Book); Performs treasury functions such as the matching and timing of fund sources with disbursements and the implementation of budget; and Performs other related duties that may be assigned by management.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.

EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Must be proficient in peachtree accounting software and other accounting softwares; Must have experience in management; Must have excellent mathematical skills; money handling experience a must; Excellent customer service skills needed.

JOB SITE: Lower Base Drive cor. Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Lower Base. Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and/or application letter to:

XAVIER O. BORJA
Vice-President
SAIPAN ICE & WATER COMPANY, INC.
Office Address: Lower Base Drive cor. Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501808, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: xborja@saipanice.com | Telephone Number: 1 (670) 287-0789

Saipan Ice and Water Company
Job Vacancy Announcement

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Saipan Ice & Water Company, Inc.

The Position: Chemist

Job Description: Conducts chemical analysis for drinking water, such as PH, total dissolved solid conductivity, residual—free chlorine and fluoride content in accordance with EPA standards; Conducts microbiological tests for drinking water, such as coliform, etc.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering or related field.

EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as a Chemist or related occupation.

JOB SITE: Lower Base Drive cor. Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Lower Base. Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and/or application letter to:

XAVIER O. BORJA
Vice-President
SAIPAN ICE & WATER COMPANY, INC.
Office Address: Lower Base Drive cor. Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Email Address: xborja@saipanice.com
Telephone Number: 1 (670) 287-0789

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/SURGICAL EXPANSION-017
DESIGN SERVICES FOR EXPANSION OF THE SURGERY DEPARTMENT

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is soliciting sealed proposals from prospective firms to provide Professional Services for Architectural and Construction of CHCC's 3-Level Parking Garage Project.

This procurement is in accordance with the CHCC procurement Regulations. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with CHCC §140-80.1-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals of the CHCC Procurement Regulations.

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Work is available on April 29, 2022 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this **RFP22-CHCC/SURGICAL EXPANSION-017**.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at cora.ada@chcc.health no later than May 23rd, 2022.

Selection Criteria:
Technical criteria
i. 25% Experience and Qualifications in similar or related projects
ii. 25% Technical approach to meet deliverables and meet timelines of the project. Must be financially stable and must have adequate equipment and tools.
iii. 25% Project Approach - demonstrate understanding and ability to meet requirements
iv. 25% Cost Proposal

The successful proposer will be subjected to a responsibility determination in accordance with CHCC Procurement Regulations §140-80.1-245.

Please email your proposal to Ms. Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at **chcc.procurement@gmail.com** or submit five (5) hard copies including original copy, **no later than 10:00 AM Chamorro Standard Time (CHST) on May 30, 2022** at the CHCC Main Campus Office. Proposals received after the date and time will not be accepted

Please note submission instructions:
- All submissions must include the **RFP22-CHCC/SURGICAL EXPANSION-017** and Project Title in the email subject.
- All documents must be submitted in Adobe PDF Format.
- All pages of your proposal must include the RFP # and Project Title in the header, plus page number in the footer.

Proposers may opt to submit out (4) hard copies in addition to the original proposal (5 in total) to the CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, CHCC Main Office, Saipan.

Failure to follow the instructions regarding the submission of RFP responses may result in the CHCC's choice to disqualify such proposals.

/S/ DR. ESTHER L. MUNA
CHC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF ROLL UP DOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ARFF Roll Up Doors Replacement Project, No. CPA-SA-001-20.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, June 3, 2022.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: May 9, 2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: https://cnmiports.com
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2022

Opening date: May 16, 2022 **Closing date: June 03, 2022**

Positions: SAIPAN:
(1) Custodial-I

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than ***5:00P.M. on Friday, June 03, 2022***.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Nation

Alleged church shooter sent diary to newspaper before attack

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—The man accused of opening fire on a Southern California church congregation because of his political hatred for Taiwan dubbed himself a "destroying angel" in a seven-volume diary sent to a newspaper before the attack, the paper said Wednesday.

David Chou, 68, spent $16.10 to mail seven thick photocopied volumes of handwritten Chinese text and a flash drive to the World Journal office in the Los Angeles suburb of Monterey Park, according to photos published in the Chinese-language paper.

The pages bore the title: "Diary of an Angel Destroying Independence" in an apparent reference to Taiwan's self-government. The Chinese Communist Party continues to demand Taiwan reunify with China.

The diary pages were received Monday, one day after Chou allegedly opened fire at a lunch gathering of elderly parishioners at Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church in the community of Laguna Woods.

The newspaper didn't report the contents of the diaries and nobody there apparently read through them before sending them to the police through the paper's attorney, said an employee who declined to be named because they weren't authorized to speak openly.

Investigators were aware of the reports that the journals were sent to the newspaper, according to Orange County sheriff's spokesperson Carrie Braun. She did not know if the sheriff's department or FBI had taken possession of them as of Wednesday afternoon.

Chou could face life in prison or the death penalty if convicted of murder and attempted murder. He has not yet entered a plea and remained jailed without bail in Orange County pending a June 10 arraignment.

County District Attorney Todd Spitzer has said Chou was motivated by hatred for Taiwan, where he was born after his family was forced from mainland China when Communists prevailed in a civil war that ended in 1949. He apparently chose the church at random and didn't know anyone there before he drove to California from Las Vegas on Saturday, authorities said.

Authorities have said Chou sat through a church service before attending the luncheon in honor of a former pastor, where he mingled with the parishioners for about 40 minutes before chaining and nailing shut exit doors and opening fire.

When the gunfire erupted, Dr. John Cheng, 52, charged Chou and was shot but authorities said he disrupted the attack and may have saved dozens of lives.

The former pastor, Billy Chang, then picked up a chair and threw it at Chou, who fell on the floor. Chang said he rushed at Chou and several congregation members held Chou down and tied him up.

ACROSS THE NATION

A third of US should be considering masks, officials say

WASHINGTON (AP)—COVID-19 cases are increasing in the United States—and could get even worse over the coming months, federal health officials warned Wednesday in urging areas hardest hit to consider reissuing calls for indoor masking. Increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations are putting more of the country under guidelines issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that call for masking and other infection precautions. Right now, about a third of the U.S. population lives in areas that are considered at higher risk—mostly in the Northeast and Midwest. Those are areas where people should already be considering wearing masks indoors—but Americans elsewhere should also take notice, officials said. "Prior increases of infections, in different waves of infection, have demonstrated that this travels across the country," said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the CDC director, said at a White House briefing with reporters.

Crews slow New Mexico fires, brace for dangerous conditions

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—More than 2,000 firefighters battling the largest U.S. wildfire dug back-up fire lines and rearranged fire engines around homes in northeast New Mexico on Wednesday in anticipation of a return to windy, dangerous conditions in the days ahead. After a break in the weather allowed for significant progress on the ground and from the air in recent days, forecasters issued warnings for high fire danger from southern Nevada through parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado starting Thursday. "The next three days are going to be the giddy-up days," fire behavior analyst Dennis Burns said Wednesday. "Crews are out there working as hard as they can to get in line as quickly as possible," he said during an afternoon briefing at the fire east of Santa Fe stretching northeast toward Taos.

Wanted: CORRESPONDENTS

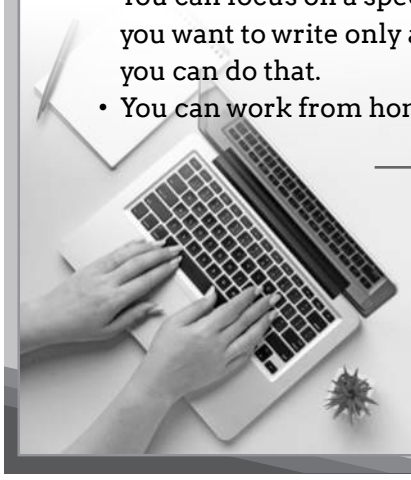
Saipan Tribune is looking for correspondents who will be assisting the newspaper with its news or sports coverages, or will assist the Advertising Section with advertorial write-ups.

Correspondents are paid per word and photo, so you essentially control your own time and the subject of your coverage.

The only requirements are good writing skills and flexibility in work hours. Knowledge in creative writing, newswriting, or sports writing is a plus.

Advantages:

- This can be a side gig. You can continue working at your main job and be a correspondent on the side. Additional income! Yay!
- You control your work hours.
- You choose which story to write about.
- You can focus on a specific subject if you wish. For example, if you want to write only about baseball or the environment, you can do that.
- You can work from home. No need to time-in or out at the office.



For those who would like to apply, you may email your application letter and résumé to editor@saipantribune.com or give them to Mia Carreon at HR on the second floor of the JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan. A sample of your previous written work will be helpful.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ARFF RAPID REFILL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-93**, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, ARFF Rapid Refill Improvements Project, AIP No. 3-69-0002-93"* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, construction of two new pre-stressed concrete tanks at 250,000 gallons each with a new triplex booster pump, removal and replacement of overhead refilling pipes, installation of two new fire hydrants, associated plumbing work, and all other associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS ($250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic format (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022**, at the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications. It is the contractor's responsibility to inform CPA as soon as possible if there is a problem accessing the information on the DVD. Contractor's are to verify all information provided using the table of contents for the specifications and the plan that shows the index of drawings.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Four Hundred Twenty (420) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND U.S. DOLLARS ($1,000.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 19, 2022

Asia

North Korea's suspected COVID-19 caseload nears 2 million

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Thursday reported 262,270 more suspected COVID-19 cases as its pandemic caseload neared 2 million—a week after the country acknowledged the outbreak and scrambled to slow infections in its unvaccinated population.

The country is also trying to prevent its fragile economy from deteriorating further, but the outbreak could be worse than officially reported since the country lacks virus tests and other health care resources and may be underreporting deaths to soften the political impact on authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un.

North Korea's anti-virus headquarters reported a single additional death, raising its toll to 63, which experts have said is abnormally small compared to the suspected number of coronavirus infections.

The official Korean Central News Agency said more than 1.98 million people have become sick with fever since late April. Most are believed to have COVID-19, though only a few omicron variant infections have been confirmed. At least 740,160 people are in quarantine, the news agency reported.

North Korea's outbreak comes amid a provocative streak of weapons demonstrations, including its first test of an intercontinental ballistic missile in nearly five years in March. Experts don't believe the COVID-19 outbreak will slow Kim's brinkmanship aimed at pressuring the United States to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power and negotiating economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers Thursday it assesses that North Korea has all but finished preparations to conduct a nuclear test, which would be its seventh overall and first since 2017, and only has to determine the timing, according to lawmakers who attended the closed-door briefing.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Wednesday that U.S. intelligence shows there's a "genuine possibility" that North Korea will conduct another ballistic missile test or nuclear test around President Joe Biden's visit to South Korea and Japan that begins later this week.

After maintaining a dubious claim that it had kept the virus out of the country for two and a half years, North Korea acknowledged its first COVID-19 infections May 12 and has described a rapid spread since. Kim has called the outbreak a "great upheaval," berated officials for letting the virus spread and restricted the movement of people and supplies between cities and regions.

Workers were mobilized to find people with suspected COVID-19 symptoms who were then sent to quarantine—the main method of curbing the outbreak since North Korea is short of medical supplies and intensive care units that lowered COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths in other nations.

State media images showed health workers in hazmat suits guarding Pyongyang's closed-off streets, disinfecting buildings and streets and delivering food and other supplies to apartment blocks.

Activists ask top court to void Marcos Jr's presidential win

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Human rights activists have asked the Philippine Supreme Court to block Congress from proclaiming Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as the next president, alleging that he lied when he said he had not been convicted of any crime.

The Commission on Election twice dismissed their petition and six other similar complaints to cancel Marcos Jr.'s candidacy papers ahead of the May 9 vote. The petitioners elevated the case to the highest court on Monday, saying Marcos Jr. was convicted in 1995 of tax evasion with a jail term, which should have permanently barred him from seeking public office.

A 1997 Court of Appeals ruling upheld Marcos Jr.'s conviction for failing to file income tax returns from 1982 to 1985 and ordered him to settle his unpaid taxes and fines, but did not mention any imprisonment.

Most of the petitioners are leaders of groups representing survivors of martial law in the 1970s under late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the father of the presumptive next president. They want the court to temporarily block the Senate and the House of Representatives from undertaking an official canvassing of votes starting next week that would eventually proclaim Marcos Jr. as the winner.

AP

Presidential candidate Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. celebrates as he greets the crowd outside his headquarters in Mandaluyong, Philippines on Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

"Our petition notes that a candidate's imminent victory cannot cure his ineligibility," said Fides Lim, spokesperson of one of the human rights groups.

"If the Supreme Court were to allow such a brazen lie to trump the rule of law, all substantive eligibility requirements in all future elections can be circumvented by ineligible candidates who happen to secure a victory," she said.

Marcos Jr. had more than 31 million votes in an unofficial count in what's projected to be one of the strongest mandates for a Philippine president in decades. Sara Duterte, his vice-presidential running mate and daughter of the outgoing populist president, appears to have also won with a large margin.

His electoral triumph is a striking reversal of the "People Power" revolt in 1986 that forced his father out of office following years of human rights violations and plunder that Marcos Jr. has never acknowledged.

Thai archival find may resolve fate of missing WWII US flyer

U-TAPAO, Thailand (AP)—The remains of an American airman who went missing in action in World War II may finally be on their way home, thanks to a chance discovery of records in flood-threatened archives in Thailand.

AP

U.S. military drape a national flag over the possible remains of a WWII U.S. airman found in northern Thailand, during a repatriation ceremony Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at the U-Tapao Air Base in Rayong province, eastern Thailand.

U.S. and local authorities held a solemn ceremony Wednesday at an air base in eastern Thailand to honor and repatriate remains recently recovered from a rice field in the north of the country.

At the U-Tapao naval air base on Thailand's eastern seaboard, military personnel along with Thai and American officials paid their respects. A casket containing the discovered remains was draped in the U.S. flag before being taken to the United States aboard a C-17 transport plane.

Tests at a special laboratory in Hawaii will determine if the remains are human and possibly identify the person. But circumstantial evidence has raised expectation the casket holds a long-lost service member from the U.S. Army Air Forces.

"You know, it's keeping the promise that we never leave a person behind. Anybody's who's served in combat in any way, who's fought alongside somebody, regardless of country or nation, there's a bond that's built. We owe it to the families to find those answers, to bring those people home," said Marine Col. Matt Brannen, who heads up the Indo-Pacific directorate of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, the U.S. body tasked with finding the war missing.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipinos protest Marcos Jr.'s private Australian visit

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Members of Australia's Filipino community protested Tuesday outside a Melbourne apartment building where the Philippines' presumptive next president, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., was reportedly visiting his son. Marcos Jr. was making a private family visit, spokesperson Victor Rodriguez told reporters in Manila. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison telephoned Marcos Jr. on Tuesday to congratulate him on his victory in May 9 elections, Rodriguez said. Rodriguez was critical of the small group of protesters on the sidewalk outside the Melbourne apartment. "It's embarrassing for Filipinos. It's not a Filipino trait to shame or embarrass his fellow Filipino in another country," Rodriguez said.

China: No information provided about March plane crash

BEIJING (AP)—China said Wednesday that U.S. investigators haven't released any information about the cause of a China Eastern Airlines jetliner crash in March after The Wall Street Journal reported its flight data recorder indicated someone pushed the Boeing 737-800 into a steep dive. American investigators confirmed to the Civil Aviation Administration of China that they released no information to reporters, the government newspaper Global Times reported. Phone calls to CAAC weren't answered. A foreign ministry spokesman, Wang Wenbin, referred reporters to the Global Times report in response to requests for information about the investigation. All 123 passengers and nine crew members were killed on March 21 when the plane dived from about 8,800 meters (29,000 feet) while flying from Kunming in China's southwest to Guangzhou near Hong Kong. Debris was scattered across a mountainous area.

Wall collapse at salt factory kills 12 in west India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A wall collapsed in a salt packaging factory in western India on Wednesday, killing at least 12 workers and injuring another 13, a government administrator said. The workers stocking salt in bags were found buried in the wall debris in the factory in Morbi district, 215 kilometers (135 miles) west of Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat state, said J.B. Patel, the district officer. The injuries of 13 workers, mostly fractured bones, were not life-threatening, Patel said. He also said that the rescue work was almost over. Other details were not immediately available. Authorities are investigating the cause of the wall collapse.

S. Korea Blue House opens to public for 1st time in 74 years

SEOUL (AP)—For many South Koreans, the former presidential palace in Seoul was a little-visited, heavily secured mountainside landmark. That's now changed as thousands have been allowed a look inside for the first time in 74 years. As one of his first acts, the new South Korean leader has moved the presidential offices from the Blue House, named after its distinctive blue roof tiles, and opened its gates to the public, allowing a maximum of 39,000 people a day to visit. The normally serious compound has been transformed into something like a fair, with excited crowds looking around and standing in long queues. "I feel grateful that the Blue House has opened to the public," 61-year-old office worker Lee Sang Woon said recently during a tour with his family. "I am really happy to be here."

World

Battle for Mariupol draws to a close after surrender

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Nearly 1,000 last-ditch Ukrainian fighters who had held out inside Mariupol's pulverized steel plant have surrendered, Russia said Wednesday, as the battle that turned the city into a worldwide symbol of defiance and suffering drew toward a close.

Meanwhile, the first captured Russian soldier to be put on trial by Ukraine on war-crimes charges pleaded guilty to killing a civilian and could get life in prison. Finland and Sweden applied to join NATO, abandoning generations of neutrality for fear that Russian President Vladimir Putin will not stop with Ukraine.

The Ukrainian fighters who emerged from the ruined Azovstal steelworks after being ordered by their military to abandon the last stronghold of resistance in the now-flattened port city face an uncertain fate. Some were taken by the Russians to a former penal colony in territory controlled by Moscow-backed separatists.

In this photo taken from a video released by the Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, a Russian serviceman frisks a Ukrainian soldier after he left the besieged Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol, Ukraine. RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY PRESS SERVICE VIA AP

While Ukraine said it hopes to get the soldiers back in a prisoner swap, Russia threatened to put some of them on trial for war crimes.

Amnesty International said the Red Cross should be given immediate access to the fighters. Denis Krivosheev, Amnesty's deputy director for the region, cited lawless executions allegedly carried out by Russian forces in Ukraine and said the Azovstal defenders "must not meet the same fate."

It was unclear how many fighters remained inside the plant's labyrinth of tunnels and bunkers, where 2,000 were believed to be holed up at one point. A separatist leader in the region said no top commanders had emerged from the steelworks.

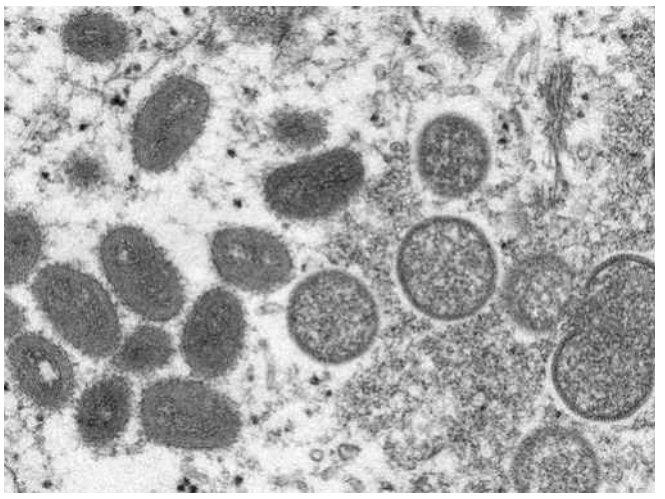
The plant was the only thing standing in the way of Russia declaring the full capture of Mariupol. Its fall would make Mariupol the biggest Ukrainian city to be taken by Moscow's forces, giving a boost to Putin in a war where many of his plans have gone awry.

Military analysts, though, said the city's capture at this point would hold more symbolic importance than anything else, since Mariupol is already effectively under Moscow's control and most of the Russian forces that were tied down by the drawn-out fighting have already left.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said 959 Ukrainian troops have abandoned the stronghold since they started coming out Monday.

Video showed the fighters carrying out their wounded on stretchers and undergoing pat-down searches before being taken away on buses escorted by military vehicles bearing the pro-Kremlin "Z" sign.

Portugal finds 5 monkeypox cases



This 2003 electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows mature, oval-shaped monkeypox virions, left, and spherical immature virions, right, obtained from a sample of human skin associated with the 2003 prairie dog outbreak. AP

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Portuguese health authorities on Wednesday confirmed five cases of monkeypox in young men, and Britain announced two more new cases, marking an unusual outbreak in Europe of a disease typically limited to Africa.

Portugal's General Directorate for Health said that it was also investigating 15 suspected cases and that all were identified this month in the area around the capital, Lisbon.

All the Portuguese cases involve men, most of them young, authorities said. They have skin lesions and were reported to be in stable condition. Officials did not say if the men had a history of travel to Africa or any links with recent cases in Britain or elsewhere.

In the U.S. on Wednesday, state health officials in Massachusetts reported a case of monkeypox in a resident who had traveled to Canada, and investigators are looking into whether it is connected to the European outbreaks.

British health authorities said Wednesday they had identified two new cases of monkeypox, one in London and another in southeast England. They said that neither patient had previously traveled to Africa and that it was possible they were infected in the U.K. The cases had no known links to other previously confirmed patients, suggesting there may be multiple chains of monkeypox transmission happening in the country.

Dr. Susan Hopkins, chief medical adviser of Britain's Health Security Agency, said the latest cases, alongside the other infections reported in Europe, "confirms our initial concerns that there could be spread of monkeypox within our communities."

WORLD BRIEFS

Mozambique declares polio outbreak linked to Pakistan

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Health authorities in Mozambique declared a polio outbreak Wednesday after confirming that a child in the country's northeastern Tete province had been paralyzed by the disease. The case in Mozambique is the second imported case of polio in southern Africa this year, following a case discovered in Malawi in mid-February. It's the first case of wild polio in Mozambique since 1992, although cases linked to a mutated virus from the oral vaccine were detected in 2019. The latest case in Mozambique was found in a child who experienced signs of paralysis in late March, according to a statement issued by the World Health Organization. Sequencing indicates that the case in Mozambique is linked to a strain of polio spreading in Pakistan in 2019, similar to the case reported in Malawi earlier this year.

Car drives into 14 cyclists in Poland; 1 dead, several hurt

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—The driver of a car slammed into a group of 14 cyclists in a village south of Warsaw Wednesday, leaving one person dead and several others seriously injured, Polish media reported, citing rescue officials. The driver fled. Police were searching for the driver of the car, Łukasz Darmofalski, an official with firefighters, told the private broadcaster TVN24. Officials did not immediately provide details or an explanation of the incident which occurred in Przypki, a village about 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of Warsaw. Ambulances and a rescue helicopter were sent to the scene and unsuccessful efforts were made to resuscitate the person who died. At least three people suffered serious injuries. EU rushes out $300 billion roadmap to ditch Russian energy

Cardinal: Pope ordered auditor to resign over spying charge

VATICAN CITY (AP)—A Vatican cardinal testified Wednesday that Pope Francis himself ordered the ouster of the Holy See's auditor-general, turning the tables on a scandal that had sparked questions about the Vatican's commitment to financial transparency and accountability. Cardinal Angelo Becciu opened a second day of questioning in the Vatican's big financial fraud trial by saying Francis had recently authorized him to reveal the details of Libero Milone's 2017 departure as the Vatican's first auditor-general. He did so to clarify his previous testimony, during which he declined to respond to questions about Milone "out of love for the Holy Father." The Vatican announced June 20, 2017 that Milone had resigned two years into his mandate, without providing details. His ouster, as well as the removal of PriceWaterHouseCoopers as Vatican auditors, had long been cited by Cardinal George Pell, the Vatican's former financial czar, and others as evidence of possible shady dealings by Becciu and the secretariat of state and a step back in the Vatican's efforts at financial transparency and reform.

Russian soldier pleads guilty at Ukraine war crimes trial

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A 21-year-old Russian soldier facing the first war crimes trial since Moscow invaded Ukraine pleaded guilty Wednesday to killing an unarmed civilian. Sgt. Vadim Shishimarin could get life in prison for allegedly shooting a a 62-year-old Ukrainian man in the head through an open car window in the northeastern Sumy region on Feb. 28, four days into the invasion. Shishimarin, a captured member of a Russian tank unit, was prosecuted under a section of the Ukrainian criminal code that addresses the laws and customs of war. "The ... accused Shishimarin fully admitted the guilt of the crime in accordance with all circumstances established during the pretrial investigation and announced by the prosecution during the trial today," prosecutor Yaroslav Uschapivskyi said. "(Shishimarin) was instructed (to shoot a civilian) by a person who wasn't his direct commander or a person whose instructions he was obliged to follow," Uschapivskyi added. "So it's not correct to say that there was some sort of order."

Off The Wall

Scientists grow plants in lunar dirt, next: on moon

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—For the first time, scientists have grown plants in soil from the moon collected by NASA's Apollo astronauts.

Researchers had no idea if anything would sprout in the harsh moon dirt and wanted to see if it could be used to grow food by the next generation of lunar explorers. The results stunned them.

"Holy cow. Plants actually grow in lunar stuff. Are you kidding me?" said Robert Ferl of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Ferl and his colleagues planted thale cress in moon soil returned by Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, and other moonwalkers. The good news: All of the seeds sprouted.

The downside was that after the first week, the coarseness and other properties of the lunar soil stressed the small, flowering weeds so much that they grew more slowly than seedlings planted in fake moon dirt from Earth. Most of the moon plants ended up stunted.

Results were published Thursday in Communications Biology.

The longer the soil was exposed to punishing cosmic radiation and solar wind on the moon, the worse the plants seemed to do. The Apollo 11 samples—exposed a couple billion years longer to the elements because of the Sea of Tranquility's older surface—were the least conducive for growth, according to scientists.

"This is a big step forward to know that you can grow plants," said Simon Gilroy, a space plant biologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who had no role in the study. "The real next step is to go and do it on the surface of the moon."

Moon dirt is full of tiny, glass fragments from micrometeorite impacts that got everywhere in the Apollo lunar landers and wore down the moonwalkers' spacesuits.

One solution might be to use younger geologic spots on the moon, like lava flows, for digging up planting soil. The environment also could be tweaked, altering the nutrient mixture or adjusting the artificial lighting,

Only 842 pounds (382 kilograms) of moon rocks and soil were brought back by six Apollo crews. Some of the earliest moon dust was sprinkled on plants under quarantine with the Apollo astronauts in Houston after returning from the moon.

Most of the lunar stash remained locked away, forcing researchers to experiment with simulated soil made of volcanic ash on Earth. NASA finally doled out 12 grams to the University of Florida researchers early last year, and the long-awaited planting took place last May in a lab.

NASA said the timing for such an experiment was finally right, with the space agency looking to put astronauts back on the moon in a few years.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Peace at last: German students bury classroom skeleton

BERLIN (AP)—Students at a high school in the western German town of Schleiden on Wednesday buried a longtime member of their community—a classroom skeleton that had served as an educational specimen for generations of pupils. Around 80 students, teachers and town officials took part in the ceremony at Schleiden's Protestant cemetery, where the bones of the unknown woman were buried in a small coffin featuring symbols of all major world religions. "We are indeed laying to rest a member of the school community to their grave," said Pastor Oliver Joswig. The skeleton, dubbed Anh Bian—Vietnamese for "mysterious peace"—had been in the school's biology department since 1952. Students had for years years pushed for the woman's remains to be buried, but plans to do so were delayed by the pandemic, German news agency dpa reported.

By chance, Polish cop helps Lech Walesa with flat tire in US

TOLLAND, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut state trooper who is a native of Poland got quite the surprise while responding to an SUV with a flat tire Wednesday—a passenger in the vehicle happened to be former Polish President Lech Walesa. State police said Trooper Lukasz Lipert arrived to the call in Tolland and was greeted by Walesa, who had spoken in Hartford on Tuesday as part of his U.S. tour advocating for aid for refugees who have fled Ukraine during the war with Russia. Lipert, 35, who came to the U.S. when he was 18, told The Hartford Courant that he spoke with Walesa in Polish about their homeland and the anti-communist movement Walesa helped lead. "It was definitely a great opportunity to meet the man who had a voice during those times," Lipert said. "It was definitely a great experience." A vehicle service worker changed the tire and Walesa continued on his way down I-84. One of his next stops is an event in Boston on Monday.

Deputy: Reckless driver said arrest was on her bucket list

A 19-year-old South Florida woman who fled from law enforcement in the Florida Keys on Thursday told the deputy who caught up to her that getting arrested was on her "bucket list." She was charged with fleeing and eluding, Monroe County Sheriff's officials said. Deputy spotted the woman's vehicle driving recklessly just before 8 a.m. Thursday. He turned on his lights and siren but the car did not immediately stop. Before she was taken to jail the woman said getting arrested had been on her bucket list since high school.

German town grounds cats to save rare birds

Authorities in the southwest German town of Walldorf have ordered some cat owners to keep their pets indoors until the end of August, to protect a rare bird during its breeding season. The decree is designed to help save the crested lark, which makes its nest on the ground and is therefore easy prey for feline hunters. The bird's population in Western Europe has declined sharply in recent decades. Authorities in Walldorf wrote that "among other things the survival of the species depends on every single chick." The decree, which applies to all cats in the southern part of the town and will be repeated for the coming three years, has reportedly prompted meows of anguish from pet owners. Regional daily Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung reported Wednesday that the head of the local animal protection association plans to take legal steps to challenge the decree. ***(AP)***

Science & Technology

Dusty demise for NASA Mars lander in July; power's failing

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A NASA spacecraft on Mars is headed for a dusty demise.

The Insight lander is losing power because of all the dust on its solar panels. NASA said Tuesday it will keep using the spacecraft's seismometer to register marsquakes until the power peters out, likely in July. Then flight controllers will monitor InSight until the end of this year, before calling everything off.

"There really hasn't been too much doom and gloom on the team. We're really still focused on operating the spacecraft," said Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Bruce Banerdt, the principal scientist.

Since landing on Mars in 2018, InSight has detected more than 1,300 marsquakes; the biggest one, a magnitude 5, occurred two weeks ago.

It will be NASA's second Mars lander lost to dust: A global dust storm took out Opportunity in 2018. In InSight's case, it's been a gradual gathering of dust, especially over the past year.

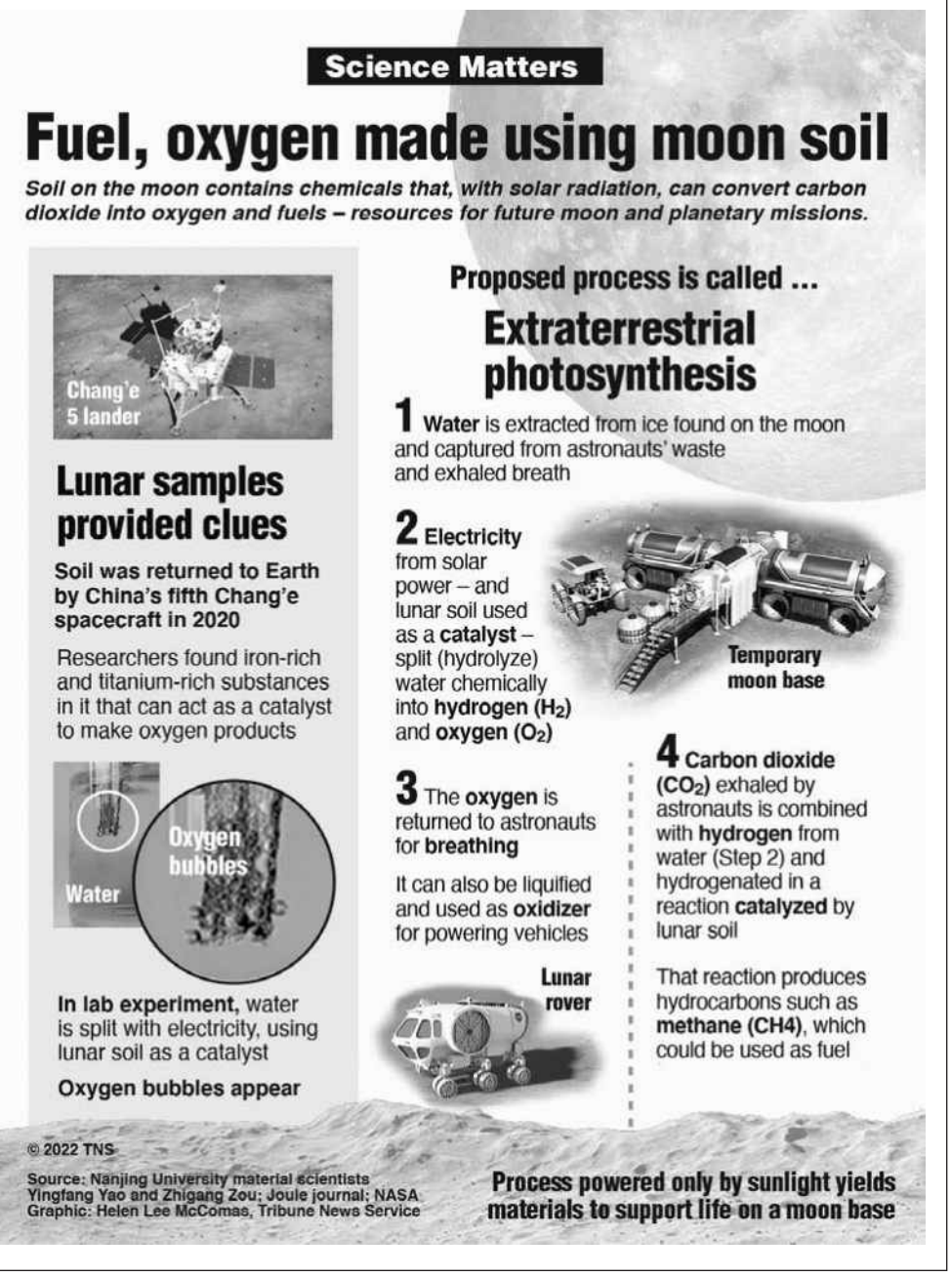
NASA's two other functioning spacecraft on the Martian surface—rovers Curiosity and Perseverance—are still going strong thanks to nuclear power. The space agency may rethink solar power in the future for Mars, said planetary science director Lori Glaze, or at least experiment with new panel-clearing tech or aim for the less-stormy seasons.

Google is remaking its search, maps

Alphabet Inc.'s Google unveiled a series of planned upgrades to its search and maps services revealing the company's augmented reality ambitions—and its appeal to a generation of internet users drifting away from the company.

The new features include ways for people to search for nearby items using images and identify physical objects with their smartphone cameras. On Google Maps, the company promised a way for people to explore detailed 3D digital models of landmarks and neighborhoods before setting foot in person. Google shared the plans on Wednesday for the first day of its annual I/O developer conference held near its Mountain View, California headquarters.

Google is working to keep its products relevant and growing as users' needs evolve beyond text. "Search should be something that you can do anywhere, in any way you want, using any of your senses," Prabhakar Raghavan, Google's senior vice president and product chief, said in an interview. Google's core search advertising business has continued to grow steadily during the pandemic, despite recent middling financial results. Yet the I/O announcements underscored nascent threats Google sees to its flagship services.


Science Matters
Fuel, oxygen made using moon soil
Soil on the moon contains chemicals that, with solar radiation, can convert carbon dioxide into oxygen and fuels – resources for future moon and planetary missions.
Chang'e 5 lander
Lunar samples provided clues
Soil was returned to Earth by China's fifth Chang'e spacecraft in 2020
Researchers found iron-rich and titanium-rich substances in it that can act as a catalyst to make oxygen products
Water
Oxygen bubbles
In lab experiment, water is split with electricity, using lunar soil as a catalyst
Oxygen bubbles appear
Proposed process is called ...
Extraterrestrial photosynthesis
1 Water is extracted from ice found on the moon and captured from astronauts' waste and exhaled breath
2 Electricity from solar power – and lunar soil used as a catalyst – split (hydrolyze) water chemically into hydrogen (H_2) and oxygen (O_2)
Temporary moon base
3 The oxygen is returned to astronauts for breathing
It can also be liquified and used as oxidizer for powering vehicles
Lunar rover
4 Carbon dioxide (CO_2) exhaled by astronauts is combined with hydrogen from water (Step 2) and hydrogenated in a reaction catalyzed by lunar soil
That reaction produces hydrocarbons such as methane (CH_4), which could be used as fuel
© 2022 TNS
Source: Nanjing University material scientists Yingfang Yao and Zhigang Zou; Joule journal; NASA
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
Process powered only by sunlight yields materials to support life on a moon base

Life & Style

Heard's sister, friend back her assault claims against Depp

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)—Amber Heard's sister testified Wednesday that she found herself in the middle of fights — literally and figuratively — between her sister and Johnny Depp during their troubled relationship.

Whitney Heard Henriquez is the first witness to testify at the five-week civil trial to say she personally witnessed Depp hitting Heard. Depp has testified he never struck Heard.

Henriquez testified the fight occurred in March 2015 — a month after Depp and Heard's wedding — when Heard found evidence that Depp had already had an extramarital affair.

Henriquez recounted that an inebriated Depp blamed Heard for forcing him into the extramarital encounter.

At one point, she said, she was caught between Depp and Heard as he charged up a staircase to confront Heard. Henriquez said she was struck in the back, and Heard became enraged and "landed one" on Depp, with Henriquez stuck between the two.

One of Depp's bodyguards intervened and broke up the fight but "by that time Johnny had already grabbed Amber by the hair with one hand and was whacking her repeatedly in the face with the other," Henriquez said.

It was the only time, Henriquez said, that she personally witnessed a physical assault. But she said she saw the aftermath of other fights, including bruises on Heard.

She said she had the nickname "marriage counselor" for her frequent efforts to mediate arguments between Heard and Depp.

"Clearly not very well," she said of her mediation efforts.

But she acknowledged on cross-examination that she sided with Depp at times in their disputes, and said she worked to keep the couple together even after she watched her sister be physically assaulted.

"If my sister said that she still wanted to be with Johnny and if I could help with that in any way I was going to support her. I was going to be there for her," she said.

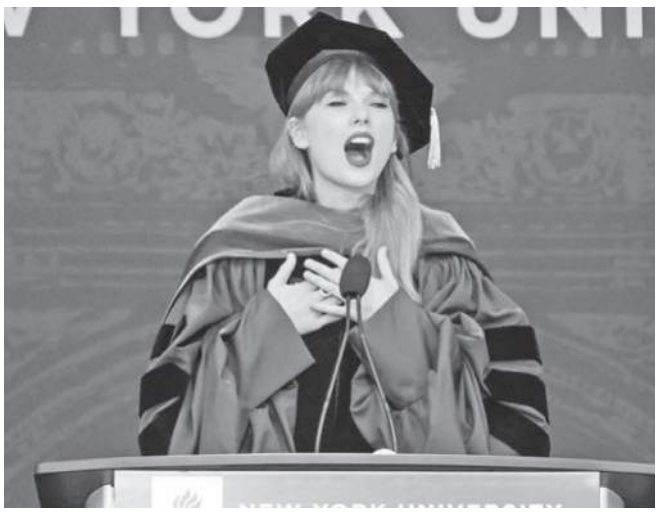
Taylor Swift gets honorary degree from New York University

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift has Grammys galore and now she has a new title — "doctor."

The superstar received an honorary doctorate of fine arts from New York University on Wednesday, blowing kisses as the crowd roared when she walked toward the stage at a packed Yankee Stadium.

Sporting her signature red lipstick and newly awarded honorary robe, Swift joked to the thousands of graduates assembled: "I'm 90% sure the main reason I'm here is because I have a song called 22.

"I never got to have a normal college experience per se. I went to public high school until 10th grade and then finished my education doing home school work on the floor of airport terminals," Swift said in her commencement speech.



AP

Taylor Swift speaks during a graduation ceremony for New York University at Yankee Stadium in New York, Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

The singer-songwriter, producer and director said that she began her music career at 15, touring different radio stations across the country. She went on to sell more than 100 million albums and won album of the year at the 2021 Grammys for her album "folkore," making her the first woman to win the category three times. Her previous wins came in 2010 for "Fearless" and 2016 for "1989."

She winked at the crowd when Jason King of the Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music mentioned her newly rerecorded albums, including "Fearless."

Swift shared advice with the class of 2022 but offered the warning that, "I in no way feel qualified to tell you what to do. You've worked and struggled and sacrificed and studied and dreamed your way here today. I won't tell you what to do because nobody likes that, but I will however give you life hacks for when I was starting out my dreams as a career.

Eric Clapton cancels shows after testing positive for COVID-19

Eric Clapton, a critic of coronavirus vaccines and pandemic restrictions, has tested positive for COVID-19 and canceled two upcoming European gigs.

Clapton

Clapton's upcoming shows in Zurich on Tuesday and Milan on Wednesday will be rescheduled, he announced on his Facebook page and official online site. The 77-year-old rocker tested positive following his concert at London's Royal Albert Hall on May 8.

"Eric is also anxious to avoid passing on any infection to any of his band, crew, promoters, their staff and of course, the fans," the statement reads. He hopes to be able to resume the tour starting with two concerts in Bologna on May 20.

"It is very frustrating that having avoided COVID throughout lockdown and throughout the period when travel restrictions have been in place Eric should have succumbed to COVID at this point in time," the statement reads.

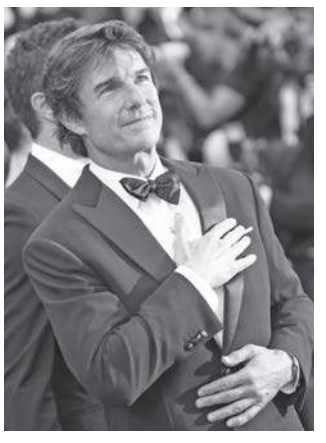
Clapton has expressed skepticism of the COVID-19 vaccine in the past. In 2020, he and Van Morrison released an anti-lockdown song titled "Stand and Deliver" featuring the lyrics: "Do you want to be a free man, or do you want to be a slave?" He also lashed out a year later with the song "This Has Gotta Stop."

Clapton got both AstraZeneca vaccine shots against the virus but said he had "severe reactions" and feared he'd never play again. The CDC says clinical trials have found the vaccine is safe. ***(AP)***

Tom Cruise and 'Top Gun: Maverick' touch down in Cannes

CANNES, France (AP)—Tom Cruise mania descended Wednesday in Cannes where the actor made a whirlwind appearance at the film festival, walking the red carpet, receiving a surprise Palme d'Or and watching a squadron of French fighter jets fly over the European premiere of "Top Gun: Maverick."

Cannes pulled out all the stops to fete the 59-year-old star, paying tribute to Cruise with not just a rare interview on stage and a red-carpet premiere featuring a flyby of jets trailing colored smoke, but with the unexpected presentation of an honorary Palme d'Or. Festival president Pierre Lescure announced the award—about 15 honorary Palmes have been given before—on stage just before the screening was to begin. Cruise clutched Cannes' top prize while the audience gave the actor a standing ovation.



AP

Tom Cruise poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Top Gun: Maverick' at the 75th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

Cruise brought a palpable buzz to the Croisette, where throngs gathered around the Palais des Festivals shouting "Tom!" to try to get a glimpse of the 59-year-old star. "Great Balls of Fire" blared on the carpet.

Sisters' display of greed is last straw for sibling

DEAR ABBY: My father died five years ago at 90. For the last 20 years of his life, both my sisters shunned him because they disliked his second wife (who predeceased him). She had never been anything but kind to us all. They refused to speak to him and, when he was dying, announced that they wouldn't attend his funeral.

When an aunt informed them that Dad had left over a million dollars in cash and no will, they couldn't get here fast enough. They caused me major distress by falsely accusing me of trying to steal from them. I have never taken anything from my sisters. I made certain the money was equally distributed, then shut them out of my life.

"Family," to me, is synonymous with loyalty, love and trust. Without it, we're just relations. I plan to never speak to them again. Am I wrong?

DISGUSTED IN DENVER

DEAR DISGUSTED: You are not wrong. Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your father. With relatives like your sisters, you don't need enemies. In a case like this, it is common sense to protect yourself. Keeping your distance will accomplish it nicely.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Will you mention the problem of adult bullying in the workplace? The bullies are usually buddy-buddy with supervisors and get away with the harassment, which includes name-calling, ridiculing and gossiping, which makes for a very uncomfortable work environment. This happens too often.

ONCE BULLIED

DEAR BULLIED: Sadly, you are right. It does happen too often. A way to stop it is first to tell the bully that you don't like it. Then start documenting the incidents, including the dates, times and what was done. Take that information to your boss or supervisor and ask them to put a stop to it. If that doesn't help, take your concerns to H.R. If H.R. doesn't stop what's going on, take the problem -- and your evidence -- to the EEOC. What you have described is a hostile work environment, which might be the basis of legal action.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently hosted a bridal shower for my daughter's soon-to-be sister-in-law. It was a lovely affair with delicious food and adorable decor. Everyone enjoyed themselves. After it was over, my daughter chided me for not giving a gift. I was dumbfounded, hurt and more than a little angry. The cost of the shower, not including my time and labor, was well over what I would have spent on a gift.

My daughter is angry with me now because I told her she was being rude and ridiculous. Should I apologize and get the couple an additional gift? I have hosted many such events and always thought the party was a gift.

ANNOYED IN ALBUQUERQUE

DEAR ANNOYED: According to "The Everything Wedding Shower Book," by Jennifer Jenkins, "It is customary for the hostess to get the bride a gift for the shower, just like everyone else." However, I am not sure I agree with Jennifer. After having expended the time, effort and expense of planning and executing the shower, I really don't think an additional gift was necessary.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

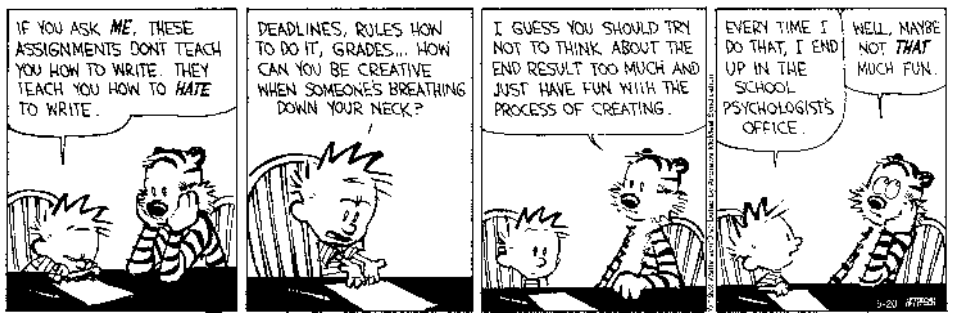
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IF YOU ASK ME, THESE ASSIGNMENTS DON'T TEACH YOU HOW TO WRITE. THEY TEACH YOU HOW TO HATE TO WRITE.
DEADLINES, RULES HOW TO DO IT, GRADES... HOW CAN YOU BE CREATIVE WHEN SOMEONE'S BREATHING DOWN YOUR NECK?
I GUESS YOU SHOULD TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT THE END RESULT TOO MUCH AND JUST HAVE FUN WITH THE PROCESS OF CREATING.
EVERY TIME I DO THAT, I END UP IN THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE.
WELL, MAYBE NOT THAT MUCH FUN.

Garfield®

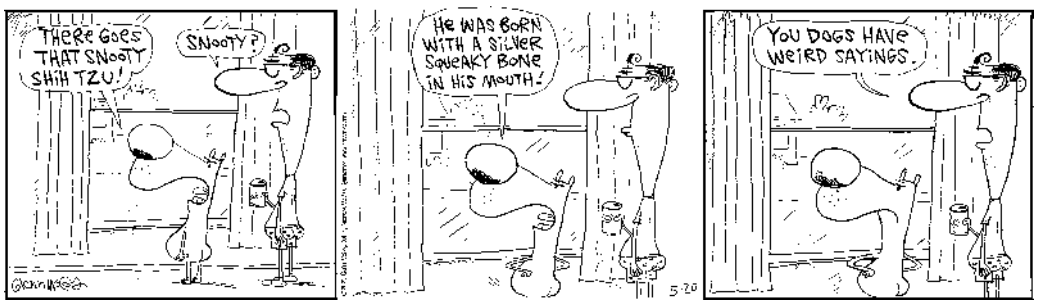
By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

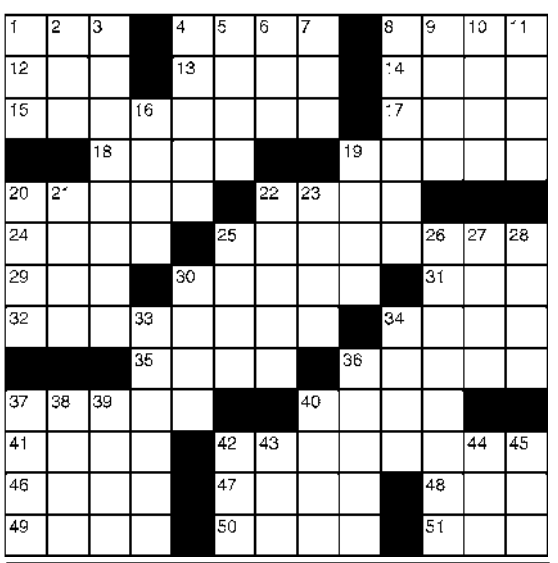
ACROSS
1 Sneaky laugh
4 "Apollo 13" org.
8 Spill the beans
12 Post-op area
13 Count counterpart
14 Fallon predecessor
15 Rather
17 "Don't rub —!"
18 Has the flu
19 Nervous
20 Lovely, in Dundee
22 Uber alternative
24 Singer India.—
25 Wanting company
29 Ninny
30 Peruses
31 "Friendly skies" co.
32 Unspecified person
34 Sch. supporters
35 Bowling targets
36 "Top Chef" host Lakshmi
37 Japanese wrestlers
40 To boot
41 Actor Guinness
42 Like slasher films
46 "Breaking Bad" drug
47 Teeny bit
48 Knock
49 Beholds
50 Horn sound
51 Salty expanse

DOWN
1 — Royal Highness
2 Green prefix
3 Doctrine espousing reason over the supernatural
4 Recently
5 Contented sounds
6 Madrid Mrs.
7 PC key
8 Russian pancakes
9 Riga native
10 Black birds
11 Skeletal
16 Bonn article
19 Chopping tools
20 Sheepish remarks
21 Roughly
22 Pond hoppers
23 Tennis champ Murray
25 Author Uris
26 Al-fresco
27 Sir's partner
28 Supermodel Benitez
30 Baseball stats
33 Geological periods
34 Go by
36 Fold
37 Rockwell and Raimi
38 Peter Fonda role
39 Apportion
40 Car
42 "Shoo!"
43 Aussie hopper
44 Whitman of "Good Girls"
45 Ecol. watchdog

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	P	J	R	■	J	A	R	■	P	A	I	I
P	E	S	O	■	J	S	O	■	A	L	T	I
A	R	E	S	■	D	A	M	■	N	U	D	E
S	E	H	E	N	E	■	A	D	A	M	■	■
■	■	■	B	F	A	R	I	N	M	■	N	D
G	L	J	E	G	■	I	N	A	■	N	A	E
L	E	N	D	■	A	V	E	■	T	U	N	E
A	■	E	■	U	N	E	■	L	I	M	A	S
D	O	N	T	F	O	R	G	E	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	D	C	O	R	■	A	G	A	S	S	I
O	M	I	T	■	A	V	I	■	K	O	J	S
L	A	N	E	■	K	I	T	■	I	S	B	N
D	I	G	S	■	S	I	S	■	C	O	S	T

Yesterday's answer 5-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Naturi Naughton, 38; Matt Czuchry, 45; Tony Stewart, 51; Cher, 76.

Happy Birthday: Take pride in what you do and how you handle situations. A friendly nudge or gesture will prompt others to do their fair share. Keep an open mind, and encourage others to help bring about positive change. Try to get in tiptop shape and set standards that help maintain a healthy and happy lifestyle. Listen to your heart, but use common sense. Your numbers are 4, 19, 26, 30, 32, 37, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Activate your resources, and connect with people you know you can rely on to get things done. Enrich the process by learning on the go and implementing innovative methods to reach your destination. Refuse to let emotions come between you and doing what's right. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* It's up to you to make things happen. Don't sit around waiting for someone to step in and take over. Consider what makes you happy, and implement a schedule that offers peace of mind. Follow your heart, and doors will open. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Speak up, promote your intentions and concerns, and do your best to make a difference. Look for a unique way to use your skills, intelligence and connections to help you gather the information to help you achieve your goal. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Pay attention, pitch in and help, expand your circle and learn through observation. Consider how different relationships transform and recognize when a situation is beneficial and when it's no longer working for you. Take the path that makes you happy. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Speak from the heart. Show how passionate you feel about your pursuits. Don't offer false hope. Honesty will keep you out of trouble and protect you from making unrealistic promises. Don't take risks with your health, reputation or position. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Discuss possibilities with experts, and gain insight into what you can do on your budget. Reach out to someone you trust to keep your secrets and share your plans. Take responsibility and do the work necessary to reach your goal. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Look at the bright side, be positive and use your charm and diplomacy to win favors. Shoot for the stars, and put in the energy required to meet your expectations. A personal change will turn out better than anticipated. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't play with fire. Leave well enough alone when dealing with a friend, relative or lover. Bide your time, and work on personal growth and creative endeavors. Steer clear of trouble and people who are negative or judgmental. Do your own thing. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll gain insight into what's happening if you trust your instincts and rely on experience. Speak up and make your feelings and intentions clear. Open a dialogue that will expose everyone's true feelings. Do something to lift your spirits. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll regret a change or decision made under duress. Keep anyone who is pushy at arm's length. Don't take a risk that can lead to poor health or injury. Stick close to home and implement projects that make you happy. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take on a challenge that stimulates your mind, body and soul. Explore possibilities and work quietly toward a goal that will make your life better and allow you to raise your earning potential by doing something you enjoy. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Pitch in and do your part, and you'll make new connections. Knowledge is power, and the information you gather now will help you make better decisions. Aim for more stability and emotional well-being, and make your health a priority. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, competitive and dynamic. You are intelligent and unpredictable.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				7	8		
	5	3	6				
3					7		1
4			5				9
8						3	
2			1			4	
8	9					7	
			3	2	6		
	6	9					

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	6	1	5	3	4	9	2	8
2	3	9	1	8	7	6	4	5
4	8	5	6	2	9	3	1	7
6	1	8	9	7	2	5	3	4
5	7	3	4	1	6	8	9	2
9	4	2	8	5	3	7	6	1
1	9	6	7	4	5	2	8	3
3	5	4	2	9	8	1	7	6
8	2	7	3	6	1	4	5	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

COMBATTING BOREDOM Solution: 5 letters

W	B	G	S	D	Ⓗ	O	B	B	Y	S	B	E	J	S
O	A	I	O	Ⓘ	M	E	D	I	T	A	T	I	O	N
R	T	L	Ⓚ	L	N	A	N	F	K	A	N	C	U	Y
K	H	Ⓔ	K	I	B	G	A	I	V	T	I	A	R	A
I	R	S	P	A	N	R	N	O	E	A	R	R	N	W
N	E	G	R	R	C	G	N	R	L	T	E	P	A	A
G	T	N	E	T	C	E	N	M	S	F	G	E	L	T
N	T	I	A	Y	R	E	E	I	L	C	N	N	I	E
I	U	N	D	O	T	D	C	E	H	A	I	T	N	G
T	L	R	I	G	I	I	C	O	E	S	T	R	G	N
N	C	A	N	A	S	T	R	L	E	S	I	Y	O	I
A	E	E	G	U	P	E	C	O	O	K	K	F	L	T
L	D	L	M	U	S	E	U	M	A	L	L	O	F	A
P	U	Z	Z	L	E	S	R	O	O	D	T	U	O	O
S	T	R	O	P	S	E	M	A	G	D	R	A	O	B

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Yesterday's Answer: Germanic

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

Curry's 21 points, 12 boards lead Warriors in Game 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Once Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson slowed down, caught their breath and stopped rushing shots, the Splash Brothers got on a roll that proved too much for Dallas to stop.

Especially because Andrew Wiggins worked end to end to make sure Luka Doncic couldn't get going.

Curry had 21 points and a game-high 12 rebounds, Golden State held Doncic in check and the Warriors beat the Mavericks 112-87 on Wednesday night for a 1-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

"Just make him work, that was the main thing," Wiggins said.

Doncic scored 20 points but shot just 6 for 18 and 3 of 10 from deep. He made back-to-back 3-pointers late in the first half to get his team within 54-45 at the break, but Curry and Thompson heated up and helped the Warriors pull away in the second half.

"A great job. That's it," Doncic said. "They did a great job."

Jalen Brunson scored 14 points but missed all five of his 3s for the surprising Mavs, who stunned the top-seeded Suns in a 123-90 thumping in Game 7 on Sunday in Phoenix.

AP

Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) reacts after scoring and being fouled behind Dallas Mavericks forward Maxi Kleber (42) and guard Luka Doncic, right, during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference finals in San Francisco, Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Friday night at Chase Center, where the raucous, yellow-clad sellout crowd brought back memories of that 2007 "We Believe" Warriors playoff team led by Baron Davis that shocked the No. 1-seeded Mavericks in a six-game first-round upset at Oracle Arena.

That helped propel Golden State back to prominence. The Warriors reached five straight NBA Finals from 2015-19 but missed the playoffs the past two years before this run.

Wiggins added 19 points, getting Golden State going by making six of his first eight shots on the way to shooting 8 for 17. Jordan Poole also scored 19 off the bench.

Doncic received a scratch across his face early from a first-quarter swipe by Wiggins. The mark—"makes me look tough," he quipped—went from the bridge of the star guard's nose across his right cheek under the eye. Doncic also tugged at his troublesome right shoulder that has been taped previously during these playoffs.

"They did a really good job. Wiggins picking him up full court," Mavs coach Jason Kidd said. "They went box-and-one, they went zone. We understood coming into the series that we were going to see that. We'll go back and look at the video and see what we can do better."

Stopping Doncic, who was averaging 31.5 points in the playoffs, is the tall task this time after the Warriors already handled two-time reigning MVP Nikola Jokic of Denver in the first round, then Ja Morant early last series before his knee injury.

"I thought Wiggs was fantastic," coach Steve Kerr said. "Doncic is as difficult a cover as there is in this league. ... It's important to make him work. He's so good. Any great player in the league you're trying to limit the damage that they do."

Curry, last season's scoring champ, missed his initial five 3-point tries before connecting with 50 seconds left in the first half. But he got involved other ways by dishing out four assists and grabbing seven rebounds.

Then he hit two quick 3s in sparking a 10-2 burst to begin the third for a Golden State squad that eliminated Memphis in a six-game semifinal series.

"It is how we play," Curry said. "When you have that ability to create separation like we did in the third quarter, it's a fun way to play."

Thompson scored all of his 15 points after halftime.

"I didn't have a field goal in the first half but that will never discourage me," Thompson said. "I will always hunt my shot."

Kevon Looney remained in the starting lineup for Kerr as the coach made his return to the bench after sitting out the final three games against Memphis with COVID-19.

"It was great to be back. I missed being out there with the guys," Kerr said. "Amazing atmosphere here at Chase and we're excited to keep going."

Looney finished with 10 points, five rebounds and four assists after coming in to start the Game 6 clincher against the Grizzlies.

Kidd's Mavericks couldn't keep up in a drastic contrast of styles featuring the slow-paced Dallas attack and up-tempo Warriors.

"We would like to play our pace but the Warriors have a unique pace, they're going to get out and put a lot of pressure on your defense in transition," Kidd said. "We have to be cautious of that. We don't want a track meet."

Dallas received a $50,000 fine by the NBA — the team's second penalty this postseason — for "team bench decorum" during the Suns series after players and a member of the coaching staff remained standing for extended time far enough from the bench area that they were "encroaching upon the playing court during game action" during Game 7 against the Suns.

"Just trying to figure out what we did wrong to get the fine," Kidd said. "... Who complained? It was a blowout so I don't think the fans were complaining. I thought the guys did what they were supposed to do. They were cheering on their guys."

The previous fine against the Mavs was for $25,000 on May 6.

Jimmy Butler, Heat seeking to take a 2-0 lead over Celtics

MIAMI (AP)—Jimmy Butler doesn't like being a called a scorer.

Never mind that the moniker seems appropriate. He's averaging nearly 30 points per game in this postseason, has reached the 40-point mark three times in his last 10 games after having zero such regular season games since 2017, and carried the Miami Heat over the Boston Celtics in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

But say "scorer" to him, and he will scoff in disdain.

"I've been a quote-unquote scorer at other points in my career, and it didn't work out too well for me," Butler said.

Things have been working out just fine so far in this postseason for Butler and the top-seeded Heat, who'll look to take a 2-0 lead in the East title series when they play host to the second-seeded Celtics again on Thursday night. It won't be easy: The Celtics are 3-0 after losses in these playoffs, winning those bounce-back games by an average of 14.7 points and getting two of those victories on the road.

The Celtics are hoping to have defensive player of the year Marcus Smart (mid-foot sprain) back for Game 2, listing him as probable for Thursday night. Boston was also without forward Al Horford (health and safety protocols) for Game 1—he is doubtful for Game 2. And coach Ime Udoka was sick Wednesday with a non-COVID illness.

"We have a lot of confidence," Celtics center Daniel Theis said Wednesday as his team gathered for a film session.

The Heat have some injury issues as well: Point guard Kyle Lowry will miss his eighth game of the playoffs with a hamstring issue. His replacement, Gabe Vincent—the Heat are 7-0 in these playoffs when he starts—is questionable with a hamstring issue of his own, as is fellow starting guard Max Strus.

Game 1 was a 118-107 loss for the Celtics on Tuesday night, though Boston pointed out after the game that the combined scores of the first, second and fourth quarters added up to Celtics 93, Heat 79.

That pesky third quarter, however, counted.

A 39-14 romp by Miami in those 12 minutes—Butler had 17 points in that quarter alone, outscoring the Celtics by himself—turned the whole game around, and the Heat never saw their lead trimmed to less than nine in the final quarter.

"Expect us to play better," said Boston forward Jayson Tatum, who had six turnovers in that pivotal quarter. "Expect myself to play a lot better."

In other words, he's expecting to get to a higher level.

Butler is already there.

He's averaging 29.8 points, 7.7 rebounds, 5.4 assists and 2.3 steals in these playoffs on 53.5% shooting. Since the NBA began charting each of those statistics, nobody has finished a postseason averaging so much in each category while shooting that well. And Heat coach Erik Spoelstra has a simple reason why Butler is in this space.

"Heightened attention to detail," Spoelstra said. "But again, I don't want to get in a long dissertation about it. If you're driven by competition, and the stakes get raised, you're going to raise your level of play. It's not about trying to get bigger numbers. It's about doing what's required. And this level is high level, this competition, and he senses it, and he knows it. He feels it."

Butler went 17 for 18 from the foul line in Game 1. The only player to make, or take, more free throws in a game against Boston this season was Kevin Durant—who was 18 for 20 for Brooklyn in Game 2 of the first-round series between the Celtics and Nets.

"He's comfortable," Boston's Jaylen Brown said of Butler. "He's very comfortable right now, and we've got to do a better job of breaking that rhythm that he's in. That's it. We've got to take the challenge."

Butler's last 40-point game in the regular season came on Jan. 25, 2017, for Chicago — three franchises and more than five years ago. But he's had five such games in the playoffs since coming to Miami, the first two coming in the bubble two years ago when he carried the Heat to the NBA Finals. The other three have been in the last month, when he's carrying the Heat again, despite his insistence that he's not carrying anyone.

"I don't care if it's a big stage or a little stage or who is watching," Butler said. "I do what I do for my family, for my people, for my organization and for my teammates. That's it. Doesn't matter if it's a big stage, home or away. I know why I do what I do."

Turner's 3-run homer lifts Dodgers over D-backs for sweep

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Justin Turner hit a three-run homer in the fourth inning and the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied past the Arizona Diamondbacks 5-3 on Wednesday to complete a four-game sweep tha extended their winning streak to five.

David Price came off the COVID-19 list to pitch 1 1/3 innings of hitless relief as Los Angeles sent Arizona to its fifth loss in a row.

Turner drove a 3-2 pitch from Zach Davies (2-2) into the lower left-field pavilion in his 1,300th major league game, putting the Dodgers back in front 4-2 in the fourth. Gavin Lux added a two-out RBI single in the fourth that backed Walker Buehler (5-1), who allowed two runs and six hits in five innings. Daniel Hudson pitched the ninth for his second save.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Justin Turner, center is congratulated by teammates in the dugout after hitting a three-run home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks Wednesday, May 18, 2022, in Los Angeles.

Mets 11, Cardinals 4

In New York, Max Scherzer pulled himself from a start with discomfort in his left side before New York finished off St. Louis.

Pete Alonso homered and drove in four runs for the Mets (25-14), who improved to 13-1 following a loss. Jeff McNeil had an early two-run single and Alonso snapped a 2-all tie with an RBI single off rookie reliever Jake Walsh (0-1) in a four-run fifth inning. Dominic Smith knocked in a run with a single during the outburst, and Luis Guillorme drove in another with a nicely executed safety squeeze.

Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer for the Cardinals. Albert Pujols got two hits to pass Eddie Collins for 10th place on the career list with 3,314, including an early two-run single off Scherzer (5-1).

The three-time Cy Young Award winner left with two outs in the sixth and a 1-1 count on Pujols. He will have an MRI on Thursday, the Mets said.

Rangers 6, Angels 5, 10 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Nathaniel Lowe hit a two-run homer on the first pitch in the bottom of the 10th inning and Texas completed a three-game sweep of Los Angeles.

The Angels tied it at 4 on Jared Walsh's second homer of the game, a two-run shot in the ninth inning. They went ahead in the top of the 10th on a fielder's choice grounder by Mike Trout, who homered earlier in the game.

Jonah Heim had three hits and drove in two runs against against Angels starter Shohei Ohtani, but the Rangers' switch-hitting catcher struck out with the bases loaded in the ninth against just-in Raisel Iglesias (1-2), who then gave up in the homer to Lowe in the 10th.

Brad Miller and Kole Calhoun homered for Texas, which matched its season high with its fourth win in a row while the Angels have their first three-game losing streak this year.

Dennis Santana (2-1), who allowed the unearned run in the 10th, was the fifth Texas pitcher.

Ohtani struck out seven and walked two while allowing two runs and six hits over six innings. The right-hander also threw two wild pitches.

Brewers 7, Braves 6

In Milwaukee, Keston Hiura returned to the majors led off the 11th with a two-run homer off Jesse Chavez (0-1), capping a comeback from a 4-0, fourth-inning deficit.

Kolten Wong's two-out RBI triple tied the score in the ninth, the first blown save for Kenley Jansen in 10 chances.

Both teams scored in the 10th, and the Braves took a 6-5 lead when Travis d'Arnaud led off the 11th with an RBI single against Trevor Kelley (1-0).

Rockiers 5, Giants 3

In Denver, C.J. Cron hit a tie-breaking two-run homer off José Álvarez (1-1) in a three-run eighth, and Colorado stopped its 12-game losing streak against San Francisco.

Charlie Blackmon hit his 37th leadoff home run and Brendan Rodgers added an RBI single in the first for Colorado, which stopped a three-game skid overall.

Tyler Kinley (1-0) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Daniel Bard pitched a perfect ninth for his 10th save.

Rays 6, Tigers 1

In St. Petersburgh, Fla., Isaac Paredes hit a pair of solo homers against his former teammates to double his career big league total.

Eduardo Rodriguez (1-3) lasted just one out and llowed three runs, four hits and two walks. He left the mound with Tigers head athletic trainer Doug Teter and is likely headed to the injured list after hurting his left side.

Drew Rasmussen (4-1) allowed four hits in five shutout innings with seven strikeouts and no walks, improving to 4-0 with a 1.01 ERA in his last five starts.

Twins 14, Athletics 4

In Oakland, Calif., Carlos Correa went 2 for 4 with an RBI double in his return from a stint on the injured list caused by a bruised middle finger on his right hand, and Minnesota Twins set a season high for runs.

Gary Sánchez went 2 for 4 with a double and three RBIs. Luis Arráez, Ryan Jeffers and Gilberto Celestino each drove in two runs. The Twins won their first series in Oakland since 2011, stopping a nine-series losing streak.

Sonny Gray (1-1) agave up two runs in six innings to earn his first career victory against his former team. Daulton Jefferies (1-7) allowed six earned runs in four innings and became the first Oakland pitcher to lose seven straight starts since Brian Kingman in 1980.

Phillies 3, Padres 0

In Philadelphia, Zack Wheeler struck out nine over seven shutout innings, Rhys Hoskins homered and Philadelphia beat San Diego.

Wheeler (2-3) allowed four hits and walked none over 94 pitches. Jose Alvarado worked the eighth and Corey Knebel earned his eighth save.

J.T. Realmuto and Hoskins helped spoil Blake Snell's first start of the season in his return from a groin injury. Snell (0-1) lasted 3 2/3 innings and gave up three hits, three runs and struck out five in his first appearance since Sept. 12, 2021.

Hoskins' solo shot in the third, his seventh, made it 2-0. Odubel Herrera chased Snell with an RBI double in the fourth.

Yankees 3, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Gerrit Cole outpitched Jordan Lyles in a duel of veteran right-handers, and New York squeezed past skidding Baltimore to clinch their ninth straight series win.

Gleyber Torres hit an RBI double and scored in a three-run first inning that propelled the Yankees to their 21st win in 24 games, including nine of their last 10.

Cole (4-0) went seven innings, allowing two runs and six hits with five strikeouts. Clay Holmes worked the final two innings for the third save of his career, all this season and all against the Orioles.

Making his 190th career start and 297th appearance, Lyles (2-4) gave up three runs — two earned — and five hits over seven innings. He struck out eight in the Orioles sixth straight loss.

Red Sox 5, Astros 1

In Boston, Nick Pivetta pitched a two-hitter, Xander Bogaerts hit a solo home run, Rafael Devers added an RBI double as Boston beat Houston in the rubber match of the three-game series.

It marked the first complete game by a Red Sox pitcher since Chris Sale on June 5, 2019, at Kansas City. It was the first at Fenway Park since Rick Porcello against the New York Yankees on Aug. 3, 2018.

Kiké Hernández and Christian Vázquez added RBI singles for Boston, which took two of three from the team that beat them in the ALCS last season.

Pivetta (2-4) gave up a leadoff home run to Jose Altuve, but settled down to retire the next 18 batters. He finished with eight strikeouts and didn't issue a walk. He threw 112 pitches, 78 for strikes.

Houston's Luis Garcia (3-2) lasted four innings, allowing five hits, five runs (three earned), three walks and a home run while striking out four.

Mariners 5, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Ty France hit a two-run homer, Marco Gonzales pitched six solid innings to snap a five-start winless streak and Seattle beat Toronto to avoid a three-game sweep.

Cal Raleigh and Abraham Toro each hit solo home runs and Jesse Winker added a sacrifice fly for the Mariners.

France went 3 for 5 with two singles, in addition to his home run. Adam Frazier also had three hits for Seattle.

Gonzales (2-4) allowed one run and five hits, walked three and struck out two to win for the first time since April 15 against Houston.

Kevin Gausman (3-3) allowed two runs and seven hits in five innings. He walked one and struck out three.

Nationals 5, Marlins 4, 10 innings

In Miami, Keibert Ruiz had three hits, including a go-ahead double in the 10th inning, and Washington topped Miami.

César Hernández tripled and doubled, Maikel Franco singled twice, and Juan Soto had three walks for the Nationals, who avoided their second three-game sweep to the Marlins this season.

Ruiz's smash down the third-base line off reliever Daniel Castano (0-1) scored automatic runner Dee Strange-Gordon from third.

Jazz Chisholm Jr.'s sacrifice fly against Washington reliever Tanner Rainey (1-1) with the bases loaded in the ninth tied it at 4. The Nationals unsuccessfully appealed that Jesús Sánchez left third base before Soto caught Chisholm's shot in right.

Victor Arano worked the 10th for his first save.

Pirates 3, Cubs 2

In Chicago, rookie Jack Suwinski, who attended high school 20 minutes from Wrigley Field, hit a tiebreaking home run and Pittsburgh ended Chicago's four-game winning streak.

Suwinski made his major league debut this season and began the day hitting .183 with two homers. With the score 2-all, the 23-year-old outfielder from Taft High School opened the fifth inning with a drive off Drew Smyly (1-5) that barely cleared the center field wall.

Michael Chavis' single in the third snapped the Pirates' scoreless streak of 20 innings.

Pirates relievers Mitch Keller (1-5), Duane Underwood Jr. and David Bednar allowed four hits over the final seven innings. Wil Crowe went two innings in his first start of the season after 13 relief appearances.

Smyly struck out a season-high five in the first two innings, but the Pirates solved him quickly the second time through the order.

Royals 6, White Sox 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Bobby Witt Jr. and MJ Melendez homered and fellow rookie Emmanuel Rivera hit a go-ahead triple, leading Kansas City over Chicago.

Witt, Melendez and Rivera each had two hits.

Rookie Collin Snyder (3-1) recorded the final out of the sixth for the win. Reynaldo Lopez (4-1) took the loss.

Matansa, Shirley's rule spring season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club and Matansa Football Club finished on top of the final team standings in their respective competitions in the Dove Women's League Spring 2022 after completing their games for the season at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Matansa edged Kanoa FC in their last May 6 duel, 1-0, to finish No. 1 in Group B of the Flores-Pee' Luwal Division. Tawny Barcinas scored the winning goal late in the second half to give Matansa a 4-2-0 win-draw-loss record, one victory ahead of No. 2 TanHoldings (3-1-2). Kanoa placed third with its 2-1-3 mark, while Paire-2 was at the cellar after a winless season, two draws and four losses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It's two against one as Matansa Football Club players battle a Kanoa Football Club player for the possession during their first meeting in the Flores-Pee' Luwal Division of the Dove Women's League Spring 2022 last month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblervile. Matansa met Kanoa anew this month and won, 1-0, to top the division.

TanHoldings got victory No. 3 and foiled Paire-2's bid to secure a win at the conclusion of the competition in their division after recording a 2-1 triumph. Maria Leo Ann Hix nailed the go-ahead for TanHoldings in the 45th minute, while Maria Masha scored the other goal for the team eight minutes earlier. Paire made it to the board first, courtesy of Shar Casil's goal in the 25th, but failed to hang on to the lead, leaving the team without a victory in the short season.

In the same Flores-Pee' Luwal Division, but in Group A, Shirley's settled for a draw against MP United last Sunday, 1-1.

Despite the draw, Shirley's still ended up with the Group A's best record at 4-0-2—ahead of Southern United (2-2-2), Paire-1 (1-4-1), and MP United (1-3-2). Mikayla Lopez scored the lone goal for Shirley's, while Rachel Salila hit the equalizer for MP United.

The other match in Group A also resulted in a draw after Paire-1's Lindsay Davis delivered the game-tying goal in the 51st minute. Earlier in the 33rd minute, Erin Frink found the back of the net to put Southern United on the board.

Kanoa reigns supreme

Kanoa FC secured the season title early in the Tinekcha-Awaal Division after a 6-1 win over Shirley's last week.

Kaithlyn Chavez led the victory with her hat-trick, giving Kanoa a 7-0-1 record in the three-round robin contest with one game left in the season. Kanoa played Southern United in its finals match for the competition last Wednesday and although results of the game were unavailable at press time, they will no longer affect the former's ranking. Kanoa, prior to its final match in the season, had a two-win lead over TakeCare, which held a 5-1-2 mark before it dueled Shirley's last Wednesday.

Meanwhile, MP United-1 and TanHoldings prevailed in last Sunday's games in the Simiya/Faayúl Division.

MP United-1 cruised past Paire, while TanHoldings outclassed Shirley's, 4-1. Kanoa and MP United-2 completed the weekend tripleheader and played to a scoreless draw.

CANOE

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The women's team includes Victoria Aldan, Heather Calderwood, Danica Calvo, Rica Concepcion, Erryne Dasalla, Jenisha Dubrall, Mayiah Duenas, Gerlyn Libunao, Vinalyn Oronigo, Kaya Rasa, Elaine Sablan, Sharleen Sablan, Teresa Sablan, and Elizabeth Tenorio.

NMNPSF president Justin Andrew said the team is a good mix and a great representation of the CNMI's diverse community.

"The teams consist of sports enthusiasts and practitioners of other sports disciplines, sports trainers, business owners, healthcare workers, private and public sector workers in different capacities, teachers, and students, but they are not strangers to the sport of outrigger paddling. All our athletes have participated in at least a few of our locally held outrigger race competitions, and most have competed regionally and internationally in Micronesia Cup, Micronesian Games, and the Pacific Games."

The CNMI national *va'a* coach added that the selection of the team members involved a rigorous process that took place on land and in the canoe.

"The process took about three months testing agility, strength and conditioning, knowledge of basic paddling techniques, ability to work as a team, to be coachable and be fully committed to the team to represent the NMI at the highest level of *va'a* paddling competition the NMI has ever held."

Andrew said over the past few months the men's and women's national team have bonded really well and are ready to represent the CNMI for the Mini Games set from June 17 to 25 this year.

"The team is enriched with its diversity and over the past few months, have really come together as a family away from home spending almost every day of the week together in canoe train ing. We know that every country sending athletes works just as hard as we are, and we understand the competition will be tough, but we will do our best."

The CNMI National Men's and Women's Outrigger Team got to test the outrigger course for the Mini Games when the NMNPSF held a dry run for the event last Saturday in the waters off the 13 Fishermen Monument beach.

"It's just to run it through and if there should be any adjustments we need to make, this is the day we get those notes and then make those adjustments for the actual race."

The dry run included the national paddlers walking through the registration process, proceed to the waiting area, march to the staging area where they will enter their canoes, paddle, and then when they finish the "race" come back in and allow the volunteers to handle the canoe.

With 182 athletes, the sport of va'a has the second most entries for the Mini Games after athletics (329). New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, and the CNMI have the most paddlers with 28 apiece, followed by Guam with 24, Wallis & Futuna with 20, Tahiti with eight, Fiji with six, Norfolk Island with three, Cook Islands with two, and Palau with one.

MARK RABAGO

Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation president Justin Andrew cheers on members of the CNMI Men's National Team during a dry run of the course last Saturday in the waters off the 13 Fishermen Monument beach.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	28	9	.757	–
Tampa Bay	23	15	.605	5½
Toronto	20	18	.526	8½
Boston	15	22	.405	13
Baltimore	14	24	.368	14½

Central Division

Minnesota	22	16	.579	–
Chicago	18	19	.486	3½
Cleveland	16	18	.471	4
Kansas City	14	22	.389	7
Detroit	13	25	.342	9

West Division

Houston	24	14	.632	–
Los Angeles	24	16	.600	1
Texas	17	19	.472	6
Seattle	17	21	.447	7
Oakland	16	24	.400	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	25	14	.641	–
Philadelphia	18	19	.486	6
Miami	17	20	.459	7
Atlanta	17	21	.447	7½
Washington	13	26	.333	12

Central Division

Milwaukee	24	14	.632	–
St. Louis	20	17	.541	3½
Pittsburgh	16	21	.432	7½
Chicago	15	21	.417	8
Cincinnati	10	26	.278	13

West Division

Los Angeles	25	12	.676	–
San Diego	23	14	.622	2
San Francisco	22	15	.595	3
Colorado	18	19	.486	7
Arizona	18	21	.462	8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAROL

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the CNMI Sports Hall of Famer said there will be no more round-robin qualifier for Asia Raulerson, Hye Jin Elliot, and Serin Chung as the three automatically make the team joining Isabel Herras.

"Since Carol dropped out we are down to four so no need," he said.

Elliott admitted to having mixed reactions to making the team.

"I am sad that Carol won't be able to compete with us for this year's Mini Game, but I am excited that I was given this opportunity to play in the Mini Games alongside other amazing players," said the Saipan International School student and the CNMI No. 1 girls juniors player.

Chung, the islands' No. 2 girls juniors netter, also shared her classmate's sentiments.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to play in the Mini Games but it's sad that Carol is not going to be playing in the tournament since she was going to be a very crucial player on the team," she said.

Saipan Tribune reached out to Raulerson on her reaction to being named to the team, but she has yet to respond as of press time.

The former Saipan resident and Albany State University varsity player was supposed to fly out to Saipan this month to try out for the national team, but will be coming home to train for the Mini Games instead.

The 19-year-old is the daughter of former Marianas High School teacher John and Pattana Raulerson

Earlier, NMITA named ITF Tour veteran Colin Sinclair, Samoa Games carryover Robbie Schorr, Bobby Cruz, and Colin Ramsey to the men's team and Lee and Herras for women's team in the Mini Games, which is set from June 17 to 25 this year.

A total of 98 players will suit up for the sport that will take place at the American Memorial Park tennis courts in Garapan and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts in San Antonio.

Northern Marianas, Fiji, Guam, Nauru, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, and Tahiti will have eight players each, while Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu will have seven apiece. The rest of the countries taking part in tennis are Cook Islands (2), FSM (3), Kiribati (5), Tonga (6), Tuvalu (3), Vanuatu (3), and Wallis & Futuna (3).

NMIBF

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win out there and for this year, it would be the Micro Cup because at the end, we are not running a club, we are the basketball federation and they are training to represent the NMI," Lee added.

He also extended his gratitude to the Saipan Centennial Lion's Club for hosting the recent basketball league.

"On behalf of NMIBF, I want to thank the Lion's Club for allowing the national program athletes to participate in their league. It was very helpful for our athletes to work on what they have been practicing on for the past year—both skills wise and team plays. It also allowed the national head coach to assess what else they need to improve on and also on each players' prior to the final selection of the national team roster."

And on the topic of the Micronesian Cup roster, the NMIBF president said they've already finalized the lineups of both the men's and women's teams that will see action in the qualifier for next year's Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands.

Lee, however, said they will announce the final 12-person lineups next week.

Men's national coach Joe Diaz, meanwhile, disclosed that it was really hard to whittle down what was once a 20-player pool to the final 12 going to the neighboring U.S. territory next month.

"So we had a total of 20 that made the first round cut and the second round cut I had a 15-man pool then this third cut we selected 12 to go out and represent our NMI National Team," the longtime NMI Rollers head coach said.

Diaz said at the end of the day, the final 12 was selected not only on their skills on the court, but also their attendance.

"So, I based myself primarily on attendance. We have five days a week of national team practice…"

Aside from host Guam and the CNMI, the other two teams seeing action in the Inaugural FIBA Micronesian Cup are Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Kiribati and the Marshall Islands were supposed to go but later withdrew. Nauru was the other team invited to take part in the FIBA Micronesian Cup.

Originally, the 2022 Micronesian Games set for the Marshall Islands was to serve as the qualifier, but since it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic to later in 2023, FIBA Oceania had to organize an alternative qualifier hence the FIBA Micronesian Cup.

With just four teams in the mix, FIBA Micronesian Cup has adopted a three round-robin format followed by single round finals to determine the champion team and medalists.

Curry's 21 points, 12 boards lead Warriors in Game 1

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Carol Lee out of Mini Games

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's goal of sweeping the gold medals in tennis suffered a major setback after the withdrawal of Carol Lee in next month's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race confirmed Lee's non-inclusion in the eight-player CNMI National Tennis Team for the Mini Games to *Saipan Tribune* the other day.

"It's a huge blow to the team that Carol isn't playing but all the other players are very much looking forward to the competition," he said.

As far as the reason Georgia Tech women's team's No. 1 singles player is not coming to the Mini Games, Race said it had something to do with the Mini Games Organizing Committee's COVID-19 protocols for athletes, officials, and even media taking part in the quadrennial event.

"All competitors and officials must be vaccinated. Carol refuses," said Race.

With Lee out of the picture,

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee, seen here suiting up for the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, will not play for the CNMI National Tennis Team in next month's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

NMIBF Ultimate goal is Micro Cup

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is happy the CNMI men's national pool won the championship of the recently held Inaugural SCLC Basketball League, it knows the team has bigger fish to fry.

"I'm happy that they won. However, as I had mentioned to the national program athletes prior to joining the Lion's Club league, winning the games or championship at our local leagues should never be the main goal," said NMIBF president James Lee.

The 2021 NMSA Administrator of the Year said Team Marianas' focus all along is the FIBA Micronesian Cup set next month in Guam.

"The ultimate goal is to

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MARK RABAGO
Team Marianas' Shane Deleon Guerrero goes up for a layup against Lakay/Islander in Game 3 of their best-of-three finals series in the open division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last May 12 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Outrigger canoe names 28-person national team

By MARK RABAGO
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The Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation has finalized the 28-person CNMI National Outrigger Canoe Team for next month's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

The 14-paddler men's crew is made up of Joshua Andrew, Timothy Asaivao, Carter Calma, Rodney Camacho, Michael Fleming III, William Grow II, Maverick Itibus, Ketson Kabiriel, James Lee, Benusto Olopai, Jose Quan, Richard Salas, Jovano Taitano, and Jason Tarkong.

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MARK RABAGO
The CNMI National Men's, top, and Women's Outrigger Canoe teams had an opportunity to test the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 *va'a* course when the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation conducted a dry run of the event last Saturday in the waters off the 13 Fishermen Monument beach.